

FACES

Country singers face backlash for concerts during pandemic
Page 15



MILITARY

Senators look to block troop cuts in Germany
Page 3



MLB

Group of players to sit out season due to health concerns
Back page

Study: Use of military contractors shrouds true costs of war » Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 53 ©SS 2020

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Sources: White House aware of bounties in 2019

By JAMES LAPORTA
Associated Press

Top officials in the White House were aware in early 2019 of classified intelligence indicating Russia was secretly offering bounties to the Taliban for the deaths of Americans, a full year earlier than has been previously reported, according to U.S. officials with direct knowledge of the intelligence.

The assessment was included in at least one of President Donald Trump's written daily intelligence briefings at the time, according to the officials. Then-national security adviser John Bolton also told colleagues at the time that he briefed Trump on the intelligence assessment in March 2019.

The White House didn't respond to questions about Trump or other officials' awareness of Russia's provocations in 2019. The

White House has said Trump wasn't — and still hasn't been — briefed on the intelligence assessments because they haven't been fully verified. However, it's rare for intelligence to be confirmed without a shadow of a doubt before it is presented to top officials.

Bolton declined to comment Monday when asked by the AP if he'd briefed Trump about the matter in 2019. On Sunday, he suggested to NBC that Trump was

claiming ignorance of Russia's provocations to justify his administration's lack of response.

"He can disown everything if nobody ever told him about it," Bolton said.

The revelations cast new doubt on the White House's efforts to distance Trump from the Russian intelligence assessments. The AP reported Sunday that concerns

SEE BOUNTIES ON PAGE 5

Recruiting REVAMP

Changes in system may endure after pandemic

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON
With his Army recruiting office shuttered due to the coronavirus, Staff Sgt. Anthony Holt has had to be creative to meet his enlistment goals. Using social media is one way. Signing up the grocery delivery guy is another.

Holt asked the man how he ended up with the virtual shopping job. It turned out, he wanted to be a boat operator, but a job with an Alaskan cruise company fell through because of the pandemic. The Army also has maritime jobs, Holt told him. He found an open training slot for an Army watercraft operator. The delivery guy enlisted.

"I talk to every single person that I meet no matter what, because I have no idea what their life story is," said Holt,

SEE RECRUITING ON PAGE 8

A drill sergeant watches over trainees as they stand in formation in May on Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

DUSTIN D. BIVEN/U.S. Army



www.dodlodging.net www.51fss.com

MILITARY



SAMUEL HARDGROVE/U.S. Navy

A sailor stands lookout on the flight deck of the guided-missile destroyer USS Barry as it traverses the Taiwan Strait on April 23. The Senate version of a U.S. defense spending bill calls for expanded drills between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Defense spending bill paves way for expanded US, Taiwan drills

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is touting language in a proposed version of the U.S. defense spending bill for 2021 calling for expanded military exercises between the United States and Taiwan, including the biennial Rim of the Pacific drills.

The biennial RIMPAC exercise is scheduled to be held Aug. 17-31 entirely at sea in waters off Hawaii; land-based portions of the exercise are canceled this year to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

The Senate Armed Services Committee last week released its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that includes numerous provisions intended to help Taiwan maintain sufficient self-defense capabilities, including the U.S. "conducting practical training and military exercises with Taiwan, including, as appropriate, the Rim of the Pacific exercise," and other bilateral naval exercises.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Friday that the bill's language "showed Washington valued the island nation's positive role in maintaining regional peace and stability," the Taiwan News reported.

The full U.S. Senate has yet to vote on the spending bill, and at some future point it must be reconciled with a similar bill approved by the House.

The Taiwan provisions could be altered or deleted in the final version.

Taiwan has long sought inclusion in RIMPAC, during which navies from roughly 25 nations gather for a month of exercises on and around Hawaii and Southern California.

Regardless of the outcome of the final bill, Taiwan would not be able to attend this year's RIMPAC because, as a first timer to the exercise, its personnel would be required to attend as observers rather

than participants.

"Due to the modified at-sea-only construct of RIMPAC 2020, this iteration of the exercise will not feature an observer nation program," U.S. Pacific Fleet, which oversees invitations to the exercise, said in a statement Monday.

"Taiwan has not previously observed or participated in RIMPAC," Cmdr. John Fage, a spokesman for 3rd Fleet, which runs the exercise, said in a written statement Monday.

"However, we continue to work with all who are genuinely supportive of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific and to find opportunities to further enhance our capabilities and proficiencies together towards that aim."

In 2018, only a month before RIMPAC was to begin, the U.S. rescinded its invitation to China to participate. The discontinuation came in response to China's continued militarization of reefs and islets in the South China Sea, where it had created artificial islands with sand dredging and then constructed hangars, runways and other infrastructure that could be used for military purposes.

China regards Taiwan, which lies just 100 miles off the southern coast of its mainland, as a renegade province that will, and must, reunify under authority of the Communist Party of China at some point.

The U.S. has supported Taiwan's self-defense for decades through arms sales but, until recently, has sought not to antagonize China with more robust support. The Navy, however, since January has sent warships at least four times through the Taiwan Strait, the 150-mile-wide body of water between the island and the mainland that the U.S. considers international waters. China disputes that assertion.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWOlson

Senators look to block US troop cuts in Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A bipartisan group of U.S. senators has introduced an amendment to next year's national defense bill that would prevent President Donald Trump from withdrawing large numbers of troops from Germany.

"The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Germany would be a gift to Russia, and that's the last thing we should be doing," Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said in a statement issued Monday, when the legislation was introduced.

"In addition to undermining our NATO alliance, a withdrawal would present serious logistical challenges and prevent our military from performing routine ... readiness exercises," he said.

Members of both parties have resisted the plan announced by Trump in early June to pull some 9,500 troops out of Germany, which would reduce the American military presence there by about a third. Most of the service members would head back to the U.S., while others could be repositioned in Poland and other locations in Europe, Trump has said.

The 34,000 U.S. troops in Germany play a key role in reinforcing NATO's eastern flank and supporting operations in Africa and the Middle East, advocates in favor of maintaining current force levels have said.

"The United States has always been more secure at home thanks to our allies abroad ... In times of domestic and international turmoil, our alliances keep us safer, healthier, and more prosperous."

A hasty arbitrary withdrawal only emboldens our adversaries," Sen. Chris Coons, D-DeL., said in the statement.

The proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act would limit the funds available to reduce the number of

'The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Germany would be a gift to Russia, and that's the last thing we should be doing.'

Sen. Mitt Romney
R-Utah

active-duty troops in Germany.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper would be required to submit a report to Congress that certifies how a reduction would serve U.S. national security interests while not undermining NATO, security in Europe and the military's ability to respond in a crisis.

The Pentagon would also need to prove that operations in Central and Africa Commands would not be hindered, report to Congress on the costs associated with any large-scale redeployment of forces, and determine if withdrawing thousands of troops from Germany would have a negative effect on military families who are in the country with them.

"At a time when the U.S. and our European allies must continue to stand hand in hand in deterring malign influences, it is in our national security interest, as well as in the interest of our allies and partners, to continue our presence in Germany," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said in the statement.

Other co-sponsors of the amendment were Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Democratic senators Tim Kaine of Virginia and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Bill would challenge Trump on renaming military bases

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Senate is poised to challenge President Donald Trump this week with legislation requiring the military to rename bases bearing the names of Confederate generals, a proposal that is shaping up to be one of the most contentious items in this year's annual defense bill.

In the Senate, the main issue appears to be timing. The bill that emerged from the Republican-led

Senate Armed Services Committee included a provision giving the Pentagon three years to come up with new names, while an amendment filed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and 35 other Senate Democrats last week would speed up that process, requiring the name changes within a year.

Although there is still vocal opposition to removing the Confederate names — Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., has proposed an amend-

ment to strip the renaming requirement entirely — Republican support for the change suggests that it will survive any challenges during this week's floor debate.

But with Trump pledging that he will "not even consider the renaming" of bases, it is possible that the provision could eventually pitch Congress into a showdown with the president over the entire defense bill.

The push to rename the 10

major bases named after Confederate generals — and remove other Confederate likenesses, symbols and paraphernalia from all defense facilities — has gained momentum as nationwide demonstrations against racial injustice and police brutality enter their second month.

The annual defense bill is one of the few "must pass" measures Congress considers every year, and if this year's proposed \$740

billion behemoth passes, it would be the 60th consecutive year that lawmakers have approved the measure.

But because of its special status, the legislation frequently becomes a focal point for political debates.

In election years especially, that can mean long, drawn-out battles in each chamber, and between the Senate and the House as they work out the differences between their versions.

MILITARY

Study says use of contractors hides true cost of war

By ALEX HORTON
AND AARON GREGG
The Washington Post

The rockets that fell on a military base in Iraq did not distinguish between soldiers and contractors.

Nawres Hamid, a U.S. contractor working as an interpreter, was killed in the Dec. 27 attack by an Iranian-backed militia that also injured American troops, prompting retaliatory strikes that edged the United States and Iran closer to open conflict.

Hamid's death illuminated the proliferation of contractors at U.S. bases worldwide over the past two decades, a presence that camouflages the true cost of war, according to a study on the commercialization of the U.S. war effort.

About 53,000 U.S. contractors were in the Middle East last year, compared with 35,000 U.S. troops, according to a study by Brown University. That ratio was 1-to-1 during the height of troop levels in Iraq in 2008. And since 2001, an estimated 8,000 contractors for U.S. companies have died on duty in the Middle East. That figure is 1,000 more than U.S. troops who have been killed.

Many of the contractors killed were foreign nationals. That has led to a double exploitation of using foreign workers for dangerous jobs and paying them less than U.S. employees earn, said Heidi Peltier, a Research Fellow at Boston University and part of Brown University's Costs of War Project.

"It hides the human cost and makes war more politically palatable," Peltier told The Washington Post.

The reliance on defense contractors, once touted as a way to reduce costs and improve quality of services for the military, has instead led to a glut of spending, the study concluded. More than half of the defense budget last year — \$370 billion — was spent on all contractor efforts, from weapons to services, according to the study.

There is also a concern that the reliance on private military con-

tractors has blunted the public's understanding of the human costs of America's unprecedented long-term deployments.

"You don't see yellow ribbons around trees for contractors," said Mark Cancian, a defense budget expert for the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "All these touching scenes of the military service member coming home and scooping his kids up at the airport, you never see that for contractors."

The Pentagon did not return a request for comment.

Analysts say the reliance on private military contractors started during the Clinton administration, when U.S.-based companies played a prominent role in training and equipping the Croatian military.

But the contractor economy expanded drastically after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, as companies found a lucrative business on sprawling bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and other nations. The George W. Bush administration relied heavily on private military corporations to support a fast scale-up in the U.S. military presence in Iraq as the security situation worsened there.

Reports of abuses perpetrated by armed private security forces working for companies like Blackwater created a public perception of contractors as irresponsible mercenaries, stirring a broader conversation about oversight and authorities.

But most contractors deployed to war zones have been engaged in the mundane yet often dangerous work of logistics and supply. U.S. contracting companies such as DynCorp and Triple Canopy have handled laundry, run dining facilities, operated bus lines, built tents and housing units, transported fuel and water, provided base security officers, and carried out other duties.

Many conservative think tanks and corporations pushed the idea of contractors absorbing duties the military historically performed for itself to lower costs and improve quality, the study concluded.



RICHARD ANDRADE/U.S. Army

A civilian contractor from Xe Services, second from left, instructs Afghan border police how to search a vehicle at the ABP Border Center in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan. A study on the commercialization of the U.S. war effort says that the use of military contractors camouflages the true cost of war.

‘I don't think this masks the cost of war ... The difference is the public doesn't care as much about contractors as much as it does about military personnel.’

Mark Cancian

Center for Strategic and International Studies

But often the opposite occurred, according to the study. Companies driven by no-competition bids have little incentive to cut costs.

Companies further boosted profits by hiring host country citizens or third-country nationals as paid a fraction of U.S. wages, Peltier said, which fostered abuse and poor working conditions.

Those numbers don't tell the whole story, said Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George Washington University. Contractors don't earn taxpayer-funded education or health care benefits that service members and veterans receive, he said, so some long-term costs are avoided.

However, the U.S. government doesn't openly acknowledge or track deaths or injuries among contractors, Schooner said, and it is unknown how many of the fatalities were U.S. citizens or foreign nationals.

"There is a perverse incen-

tive by the White House and the Defense Department to not have this information in the public domain," he said.

The increasing involvement of numerous companies opened opportunities for fraud, corruption or shoddy products.

Companies have consistently been docked for charging exorbitant prices and violating contract terms. Nearly every company responsible for the Defense Department's subsistence prime vendor program, a privatized food supply contract, has settled federal fraud allegations.

Taxpayers, the contractors themselves and U.S. troops sometimes paid the consequences. In 2008, Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth was electrocuted in a shower built by KBR, and his death was among others blamed on poor work. The Army found that contractors and government employees "breached their respective duties of care," but no criminal

charges were filed.

Cancian, the CSIS analyst, said deployed military contractors are viewed as a significant and permanent part of the U.S. national security apparatus. Their presence on the battlefield has made long-term deployments more politically acceptable, he said.

"I don't think this masks the cost of war ... all the figures are out there," Cancian said. "The difference is the public doesn't care as much about contractors as much as it does about military personnel, and therefore is more willing to let military operations continue."

Hamid's death may be among the exceptions. Shortly after, President Donald Trump tweeted that Iran had killed an American contractor and would be "held fully responsible."

In the conflagration that followed, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, was killed in a U.S. airstrike.

Hamid, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was not eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, where U.S. service members are interred. Instead, he was laid to rest at the Greater Sacramento Muslim Cemetery, in a funeral paid for by his employer, a Virginia-based defense contractor called Valiant Integrated Services.

UN: Afghan forces launched attacks that killed civilians

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan military was responsible for errant mortar attacks that killed or injured dozens at a cattle market in southern Helmand province this week, the United Nations said

Tuesday.

Afghan soldiers fired the mortars at Taliban fighters Monday morning but missed and struck the market, leaving 23 dead, including children, the provincial governor's office said following the attack. The U.N. was unable to verify the death toll Tuesday.

The Taliban and the Afghan government blamed each other for the deaths.

U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan Charge d'Affaires Rose Wilson called the attack a "mass murder of innocent civilians" and offered condolences to the victims and their families in a statement Tuesday.

The U.N. called for a thorough

investigation.

"Both parties must stop fighting in civilian-populated areas," a U.N. Twitter post said Tuesday. "Such indirect fire incidents in ground engagements cause 1000s of civilian casualties each year."

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

WAR ON TERRORISM

Dems: White House briefing on Russian bounties inadequate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—House Democrats returning from a briefing at the White House Tuesday said they still have many questions about explosive allegations that Russia offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American troops in Afghanistan, and questioned why President Donald Trump won't condemn Vladimir Putin over the issue.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and a small group of other House Democrats met with White House officials as Trump downplayed the allegations and the White House said he had not been briefed on them. A handful of Republicans received a similar briefing Monday evening.

The Democrats said their briefing was insufficient and they learned nothing new. Hoyer said it was White House officials giving "their perspective" when lawmakers really need to hear from members of the intelligence community. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said, "The right people to give the briefing really were not in the room."

The intelligence assessments on the Russian bounties came amid Trump's push to withdraw the United States from Afghani-

stan. They suggested Russia was making overtures to militants as the U.S. and the Taliban held talks to end the long-running war. The assessment was first reported by The New York Times, then confirmed to The Associated Press by American intelligence officials and others with knowledge of the matter.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., said Democrats left the White House briefing "scratching their heads." He said the Americans "people need to know more because 'for God's sake, these are our soldiers.'"

Schiff said it was "inexplicable" why Trump won't say publicly that he is working to get to the bottom of the issue and why he won't call to Russian President Putin. He said Trump's defense that he hasn't been briefed is inexcusable.

"Many of us do not understand his affinity for that autocratic ruler who means our nation ill," Schiff said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi did not attend the briefing but said Monday — as she often does — that "all roads lead to Putin" when it comes to Trump.

Senate Republicans returning to Washington on Monday evening said they had strong con-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

House Armed Services Committee member Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., leaves an intelligence briefing on reports of a Russian operation to pay Afghan militants targeting U.S. troops in Afghanistan, at the White House on Tuesday in Washington.

cerns about the reports. Many said they wanted more answers. West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito said that Congress needs to get to the truth, because the allegations are "horrifying if true."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany has repeatedly insisted Trump wasn't briefed on the findings because they hadn't been verified. The White House seemed to be setting an unusually high bar for bringing the information to Trump, since it is rare for intelligence to be confirmed without a shadow of doubt before it is presented to senior government decision-makers.

McEnany declined to say why a different standard of confidence in the intelligence applied to briefing lawmakers than bringing the information to the president.

Some Republicans who were briefed by the White House on Monday also said they left with questions.

Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Texas Rep. Mac Thornberry, the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said, "After today's briefing with senior White House officials, we remain concerned about Russian activity in Afghanistan, including reports that they have targeted U.S. forces."

Senators reviewed classified documents related to the allegations Monday evening, including information that was not previously known, according to one aide who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. It was unclear what was contained in the documents.

Nebraska Republican Ben Sasse, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said that Congress should focus on finding out who knew what, and when, "and did the commander in chief know? And if not, how the hell

not?"

Others downplayed the matter. "I don't think it's should be a surprise to anybody that the Taliban's been trying to kill Americans and that the Russians have been encouraging that, if not providing means to make that happen," said Texas Sen. John Cornyn, also a member of the intelligence panel.

Trump's Democratic general election rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, accused the president Monday of a "betrayal" of American troops in favor of "an embarrassing campaign of deferring and debasing himself before Putin."

"I'm disgusted," Biden told donors, as he recalled his late son Beau's military service. Families of service members, Biden said, "should never, ever have to worry they'll face a threat like this: the commander in chief turning a blind eye."

Bounties: White House didn't consider earlier intelligence to be urgent

FROM FRONT PAGE

about Russian bounties were also in a second written presidential daily briefing this year, and that current national security adviser Robert O'Brien had discussed the matter with Trump. O'Brien denies doing that.

On Monday, O'Brien said while the intelligence assessments regarding the bounties "have not been verified," the administration "has been preparing about the situation warranting action."

The administration's earlier awareness of the Russian offers raises additional questions about why Trump didn't take punitive action against Moscow for efforts that put the lives of American service members at risk. Trump has sought throughout his time in office to improve relations with Russia and President Vladimir Putin, moving this year to try to reinstate Russia as part of a group of world leaders it had been kicked out of.

Officials said they didn't consider the intelligence assessments to be particularly urgent, given that Russian meddling in Afghanistan isn't a new occurrence. The officials with knowledge of Bolton's apparent briefing

for Trump said it contained no "actionable intelligence," meaning the intelligence community didn't have enough information to form a strategic plan or response. The classified assessment of Russian bounties, however, was the sole purpose of the meeting.

The officials insisted on anonymity because they weren't authorized to disclose the highly sensitive information.

The intelligence that surfaced in early 2019 indicated Russian operatives had become more aggressive in their desire to contract with the Taliban and members of the Haqqani Network, a militant group aligned with the Taliban in Afghanistan and designated a foreign terrorist organization in 2012 during the Obama administration.

The National Security Council and the undersecretary of defense for intelligence held meetings regarding the intelligence. The NSC didn't respond to questions about the meetings.

Late Monday, the Pentagon issued a statement saying it was evaluating the intelligence but so far had "no corroborating evidence to validate the recent allegations."

"Regardless, we always take the safety and security of our forces in Afghanistan — and around the world — most seriously and therefore continuously adopt measures to prevent harm from potential threats," said Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman.

Concerns about Russian bounties flared anew this year after members of the elite Naval Special Warfare Development Group, known to the public as SEAL Team Six, raided a Taliban outpost and recovered roughly \$500,000 in U.S. currency. The funds bolstered the suspicions of the American intelligence community that Russians had offered money to Taliban militants and linked associations. The White House contends the president was unaware of this development, too.

The officials told the AP that career government officials developed potential options for the White House to respond to the Russian aggression in Afghanistan, which was first reported by The New York Times. The Trump administration, however, has yet to authorize any action.

The intelligence in 2019 and 2020 surrounding Russian bounties was derived in part from

debriefings of captured Taliban militants. Officials with knowledge of the matter told the AP that Taliban operatives from opposite ends of the country and from separate tribes offered similar accounts.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied that Russian intelligence officers had offered payments to the Taliban in exchange for targeting U.S. and coalition forces.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the Taliban's chief negotiator, a spokesman for the insurgents, said Tuesday, but it was unknown whether there was any mention during their conversation of allegations about Russian bounties. Pompeo pressed the insurgents to reduce violence in Afghanistan and discussed ways of advancing a U.S.-Taliban peace deal signed in February, the Taliban spokesman tweeted.

The U.S. is investigating whether Americans died because of the Russian bounties. Officials are focused on an April 2019 attack on an American convoy. Three U.S. Marines were killed after a car rigged with explosives detonated near their armored vehicles as they returned to Bagram

Airfield, the largest U.S. military installation in Afghanistan.

The Defense Department identified them as Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Slutman, 43, of Newark, Del., Sgt. Benjamin Hines, 31, of York, Pa., and Cpl. Robert Hendricks, 25, of Locust Valley, N.Y. They were infantrymen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, a reserve infantry unit headquartered out of Garden City, N.Y.

Hendricks' father told the AP that even a rumor of Russian bounties should have been immediately addressed.

"If this was kind of swept under the carpet so as to not make it a bigger issue with Russia, and one ounce of blood was spilled when they knew this, I lost all respect for this administration and everything," Erik Hendricks said.

Three other service members and an Afghan contractor were wounded in the attack. As of April 2019, the attack was under a separate investigation, unrelated to the Russian bounties.

The officials who spoke to the AP also said they were looking closely at insider attacks from 2019 to determine if they were linked to Russian bounties.

MILITARY

Pompeo presses Taliban on peace

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called and spoken with the Taliban's chief negotiator, a spokesman for the insurgents said Tuesday, amid a raging controversy in Washington over when President Donald Trump was told about U.S. intelligence that Russia was paying the Taliban to kill U.S. and NATO soldiers in Afghanistan.

However, it was not known whether there was any mention during the call of allegations that some Taliban militants received money to kill U.S. and NATO soldiers in Afghanistan.

Pompeo and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar held a video conference late on Monday in which Pompeo pressed the insurgents to reduce violence in Afghanistan and discussed ways of moving a peace deal signed between the U.S. and the Taliban in February forward, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen tweeted.

The call comes as the U.S. peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, is touring the region in efforts to advance the deal. He was in Uzbekistan on Tuesday and was expected in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, later in the day or on Wednesday, and was also to travel to Doha, Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office.

Khalilzad is also holding video conferences with Kabul leaders rather than traveling to the Afghan capital because of the dangers of COVID-19, according to a U.S. State Department statement. Afghanistan's dilapidated health system is grappling with the pandemic, with the number of infections thought to far outnumber the official tally of over 31,000 cases, including 733 deaths.

The implementation of the U.S.-Taliban deal has reached critical stage, with the Taliban and Kabul's leaders expected to hold negotiations on a framework for a postwar Afghanistan that would end the fighting and bring the insurgents into the country's political arena.

The talks are expected to begin sometime in July — if both sides abide by a promise laid out in the U.S.-Taliban deal to release thousands of prisoners. The agreement calls for Kabul to release 5,000 imprisoned Taliban while the insurgents would release 1,000 government and military personnel they hold captive. But the prisoner releases have been marked by de-



MANDEL NIGAN, POOL/AP

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, above, and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's chief negotiator, held a video conference Monday in which Pompeo pressed the insurgents to reduce violence in Afghanistan and discussed ways of moving a peace deal forward, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen tweeted.

lays; Kabul has so far released 3,500 and the Taliban have freed about 700.

Shaheen tweeted that Pompeo and Baradar discussed the "implementation of the agreement, foreign troop withdrawal, prisoner release, start of intra-Afghan dialogue and reduction in (military) operations." The U.S. State Department has not commented on the video conference.

Baradar complained about new Afghan military checkpoints in areas under Taliban control while Pompeo said Washington wanted to see a reduction in violence, according to the tweet.

A U.S. official close to the peace process, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter with journalists, said Pompeo emphasized in Monday night's video call the imperative that the Taliban abide by their commitment to battle other militants operating in Afghanistan — specifically terror groups that could threaten the U.S. or its allies, a reference that alludes to Islamic

State.

The Taliban have denied the allegations that they were paid by Russia to kill Americans in Afghanistan. The Associated Press has reported that Russia began paying the bounties back in early 2019, even as Khalilzad was trying to finalize the deal with the insurgent group to end Washington's longest war and withdraw U.S. soldiers.

Violence in Afghanistan has continued to spike since a three-day cease-fire in May for a major Muslim holiday. As civilian casualties rise, both the Taliban and the government blame each other. On Monday, 23 civilians were killed in an attack on a busy market in the southern province of Helmand, a Taliban heartland.

In a tweet early Tuesday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid invited foreign and Afghan journalists to visit the area, which is controlled by the Taliban and has been off-limits to reporters, to independently check out claims about the attack.

Bail for some suspected of targeting US forces in Iraq

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities released on bail Monday some men with ties to an Iran-backed militia detained under suspicion of carrying out a series of rocket attacks against the U.S. presence in the country, Iraqi government and militia officials said.

The release comes five days after Iraqi security forces arrested 14 men suspected of orchestrating attacks against the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone and American troops located on Iraqi bases. The arrests, based on a judicial order, marked the strongest action to date by the new government in Baghdad against the perpetrators affiliated with a powerful Iran-backed militia group.

The officials offered varying accounts of the number of detainees who had been released. A militia official said 11 among the 14 arrested on Thursday were released on bail and three suspects remained in custody. Two government officials did not specify the number and said some were released on bail. One government official said all were released except one prime suspect.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

A military statement following the arrests said a special investigative committee was formed to include the Interior Ministry and other Iraqi security forces to follow up on the case.

The U.S. has blamed Iran-backed militia group Kata'ib Hezbollah for orchestrating attacks against its embassy and American troops inside Iraqi bases, and criticized the Iraqi government for not identifying and arresting the culprits.

The raid was carried out according to a judicial order based on Iraqi anti-terrorism laws, and was issued following intelligence reports indicating the men had orchestrated attacks against the U.S. presence.

Navy counsels USS Ford aviators who wore patch featuring a bat

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

Aviators in a small training detachment aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford were recently counseled by leadership after wearing an unauthorized and inappropriate Patch, Navy said.

Half of the patch, according to a photo on Twitter, included the aircraft carrier's logo with the words "America's Newest Carrier" and "Integrity at the Helm." The other half, however, depicted an image of a bat with the words "China's Newest Carrier," a reference to one theory about the origins of the coronavirus.

"The patch in question was inappropriate and not consistent with uniform regulations, which state patches must be appropriate in nature and approved by commanding officers," Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, spokeswoman for Naval Air Force Atlantic, said in an email Thursday.

'The patch in question was inappropriate and not consistent with uniform regulations.'

Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg
spokeswoman, Naval Air Force Atlantic

Officials became aware of the patch the week before, Cragg said in the email. It's unclear where it came from.

"The small number of aviators who had the patch were counseled, and leadership made clear to everyone in the squadron that the patch was not authorized for wear," she said.

Lombardo tapped to be 14th Army Reserve command sergeant major

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The 14th command sergeant major of the Army Reserve will be Sgt. Maj. Andrew Lombardo, the Army Reserve announced Monday.

Lombardo is a veteran of Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan and served in Bosnia and Kosovo. As the top enlisted adviser for the force, he will oversee all issues affecting the nearly 200,000 soldiers serving in the Reserve. He most recently served as command sergeant major of the 200th Military Police Command at Fort Meade, Md.

He will succeed Sgt. Maj. Ted Copeland, who has served in the position since March 2017.

Lombardo enlisted in the Army in 1985 and completed two years in active duty as a military policeman at the U.S. Military



Lombardo

Academy at West Point, N.Y. After being released from active duty, Lombardo enlisted in the Army Reserve in Long Island, N.Y. His awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal and seven Army Commendation Medals.

In his civilian career, Lombardo is a deputy inspector with the New York City Police Department. He is also a New York-licensed emergency medical technician and a nationally certified emergency medical technician.

beynon.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @StevenBeynon

VIRUS OUTBREAK

USFJ eases travel limits ahead of July Fourth

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — People who live or work at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo have been authorized to travel much of the country's main island in time for Independence Day, although Tokyo Disneyland and popular nightlife districts in the capital remain off-limits.

New 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Andrew Campbell on Tuesday expanded the areas where Yokota community members are authorized to roam. Troops, family members, civilian workers, contractors and Japanese employees at the base had been ordered to stay at home or close to the base since late March to slow the coronavirus' spread.

"Our local area is defined as the island of Honshu (mainland Japan) excluding the Tokyo metropolitan area and the Yokohama metropolitan area which are still prohibited," Campbell wrote in a Tuesday

memo. "Members are also authorized to visit other military installations within the local area."

Areas in central Tokyo, such as Shibuya, Shinjuku and Roppongi, are still a no-go, he added. They also remain barred from visiting other Japanese islands, such as Okinawa, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku.

Compared to the United States or Europe, Japan has seen relatively few cases of the coronavirus — about 19,000 total infections and 1,000 deaths. Tokyo, which confirmed 58 new cases Monday, has seen an uptick in infections since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a state of emergency there May 25.

U.S. military bases throughout Japan have eased restrictions in recent weeks but remain under a public health emergency imposed by U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider on April 6 that's set to expire July 14.

For example, U.S. Army Japan gave a green light Friday for troops, civilian workers and their families at Camp Zama and

other bases in Kanagawa prefecture, near Japan's capital, to go almost anywhere in the country other than Hokkaido, areas of Tokyo, Yokohama and Kawasaki.

On June 15, Yokota reported its first coronavirus case among local base personnel, although an undisclosed number of Navy sailors tested positive in late April. A group of sailors was sequestered at the installation before boarding warships of the USS Ronald Reagan strike group for its patrol of the Western Pacific.

In May, the Air Force revealed that an undisclosed number of support staff accompanying the sequestered sailors had also tested positive.

Yokota personnel are still prohibited from patronizing bars, night clubs, karaoke clubs, social clubs, hot springs, public baths, pachinko parlors, arcades, off-installation massage services, amusement/theme parks, off-base gyms and fitness centers, or any facility with a potential for crowds, close contact, or closed spaces where coronavirus prevention measures

cannot be maintained, Campbell wrote in his memo.

Public trains and buses may only be used for travel to work, school or daycare when private transportation is unavailable or impractical, he said.

Yokota personnel also must limit gathering to 20 people or fewer, although squadron commanders can approve gatherings of up to 50 people, Campbell added.

"An exception to the public gathering requirements is allowed for attendance at off-installation religious services so long as attendance can be conducted in a safe manner," he wrote. "Those wishing to attend such services off-installation must exercise caution such as physically distancing requirements and wearing masks except for short duration to take part in religious rituals/rites/observances that require consumption."

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson

USO in Japan back in business after months of virus restrictions

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Three months after the coronavirus pandemic forced a general lockdown at the 7th Fleet's home south of Tokyo, the USO reopened Monday with a call to passersby: "Come get your free ice cream!"

On some U.S. bases in Japan, the USO has returned to nearly normal business after months of virtual activities and closed doors during the height of the pandemic. As the U.S. military eases travel and activity restrictions, the USO is opening again, too, but with some safeguards.

At Yokosuka, where the most stringent stay-at-home order was imposed, the USO center for now is admitting only active-duty service members, and only up to 25 at a time, center manager Tammi Tiefel said Monday. Hours are scaled back to 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for the time being.

The center is adopting other measures, as well. "Masks are also required at all times and we have hand sanitizer and wipes scattered all around the center," she said.

During the modified re-opening, the USO still offers all services, such as snacks and drinks, access to gaming systems, free Wi-Fi and Chromebooks, which are disinfected before they're checked out to another user.

"Being able to come in and relax and playing videos games or whatever helps forget about all the stress out there, especially now, and gives a little sense of a return to normal," Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Ditto, from the guided-missile cruiser USS

‘Being able to come in and relax and playing videos games or whatever ... gives a little sense of a return to normal.’

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Matthew Ditto
USS Chancellorsville

Chancellorsville, said Monday.

The Yokosuka USO had been open for 1½ months after renovations before closing again March 25. The base population at the time was ordered to shelter-in-place after cases of coronavirus appeared there.

Even while its doors were shut, the USO continued to host virtual programs such as its Coffee Connection and Tot Time gatherings through Facebook Live or Zoom to help combat the isolation that arose from the shelter-in-place order.

The center also handed out snacks and toiletry kits to service members at Yokosuka who were making permanent duty-station changes or whose movements were restricted. It also supported two of the three waves of sailors who rotated through the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan since March.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, the USO celebrated its re-opening Monday with free pizza and movie kits, according to volunteer Sheridan Fiedelman.

The center is open again 10 a.m.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

Visitors enjoy free ice cream from the USO after the center reopened at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday. Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo celebrated the USO's reopening with free pizza.

to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with a limit of 20 service members and family members for the time being. Public health guidelines are in place, there, too, including social distancing and face masks, according to a summary Fidelman provided Tuesday.

During the forced lull because of the coronavirus restrictions, the Yokota branch kept busy with virtual events such as painting nights and story time. It also provided care packages for troops in quarantine and to-go snacks, movie kits and other take-home activities for families at Yokota, Fidelman said.

lopez.christian@stripes.com
Twitter: @CLopez_Stripes



Petty Officer 2nd Class Gyangpong Kusi mans the front desk inside the USO at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

CENTCOM battling cases that developed in Kuwait

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A cluster of coronavirus cases has developed at a Kuwaiti air base that houses U.S. Central Command personnel, officials said.

Central Command declined to provide a specific number of cases at Ahmed al-Jaber Air Base, but a defense official told Stars and Stripes there were less than 30. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to provide the number.

The cases aren't affecting the military's ability to execute its mission, CENTCOM said in a statement late Saturday, confirming that a "cluster developed over time."

"We believe social distancing and contact tracing measures [have] limited the size of that cluster," the statement said. "We work to strictly adhere to Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention] guidelines... such as frequent hand-washing, social distancing and wearing masks when social distancing is not possible."

Anyone who shows symptoms or tests positive is given immediate medical care, the statement said.

Officials did not immediately answer a Stars and Stripes inquiry Monday as to how many U.S. troops are serving at the base.

In the past year al-Jaber has hosted Marine leadership courses and joint service exercises, but it is mainly home to airmen from the Air Forces Central Command's 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. Personnel from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at nearby Ali Al Salem Air Base



ALEXANDRE MONTES/U.S. Air Force

An airman discusses proposed mitigations during a coronavirus quarantine exercise at Ahmed al-Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, on March 13. A "cluster" of COVID-19 cases has developed at the base, officials said.

also routinely pass through.

The Defense Department ordered commands to stop discussing local coronavirus infection totals in March, but the overall service-level tallies show cases continuing to rise.

As of Monday, 11,770 military personnel had tested positive for the disease, with nearly 300 requiring hospitalization, out of 17,116 DOD-connected positive cases and 623 hospitalizations. Of those, three troops died and nearly 6,000 service members had recovered.

Additionally, some 1,666 dependents, 2,551 DOD civilians and 1,129 military contractors had tested positive. Five dependents, 21 civilian employees and

nine contractors died and some 3,000 people in those categories had recovered.

As the pandemic began to spread earlier this year, Air Forces Central Command wings decreased services provided by local contractors after some countries imposed curfews to stop the spread of the virus. In Kuwait, the 386th AEW imposed a 5 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew on base, an official said at the time.

Air Force dining facilities and morale centers increased spacing for seating and bases canceled several group activities, said Capt. Kenneth Hicks, an Air Force spokesman at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in a March email. Community activity centers, movie theaters and base exchange shops also closed.

"At some of our bases, we've split shifts to maximize social distancing," Hicks said. "Additionally, our base personnel [throughout the region] are restricted from going off-base unless it's considered mission essential."

After ordering a worldwide stop movement in March, the Pentagon eventually began allowing case-by-case deployments and redeployments. Service members deploying to CENTCOM were ordered to 14-day quarantine beforehand, and those returning home underwent the two-week isolation period in the U.S.

AFCENT officials did not immediately respond to a query about whether any of the preventive measures had been eased in recent weeks leading up to the development of the COVID-19 cluster at al-Jaber.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Recruiting: 'Army Hiring Days' seeks to sign up 10K new soldiers

FROM FRONT PAGE

who is based in Bowling Green, Ky. "If I have the opportunity to help somebody the way that the Army's helped me, I seize that opportunity."

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on military recruiting, closing enlistment stations and forcing thousands of recruiters to woo potential soldiers online, or even on their front steps. As the virus raged, enlistments slowed and fueled worries that the armed services would have to rely more on current troops re-enlisting to meet total force requirements by the end of the fiscal year in September.

Recruiters have had to abandon their normal visits to high schools and malls, and instead are relying almost exclusively on social media to reach young people. As that effort builds, Army leaders believe it may evolve into a new system that will allow them to scale back the size and staffing at enlistment storefronts and reduce the number of recruiters.

"We're going to empower the recruiters to allow for more autonomous recruiting," said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, head of the Army's recruiting command. That, he said, will allow the service to reduce the size of brick-and-mortar offices since some recruiters will be working solely online and go into the office only occasionally.

"If we have recruiters that are operating at a greater efficiency (online) then we don't need 10,000 recruiters. We may be able to reduce that number to 7,000 or 8,000," he said, adding that such a reduction will allow the Army to move more soldiers back into regular units and fighting formations.

But first the Army has to determine how successful virtual recruiting can be.

In the early days of the pandemic, Army enlistments fell off by about 50%.

"Does that put us behind? Yeah," said Muth, adding that enlistments are about 4,000 lower than their goal at this point, despite doing better than planned in the early part of the fiscal year. Before the pandemic took hold. But, he said, online recruiting has improved. Over the past month the Army got about 80% of its goal, compared with the normal 90% for that period, Muth said.

Overall success will depend on soldiers like Sgt. 1st Class Eric Nordin, who is making virtual recruiting a career.

"I was a lot cooler online than I am in real life," said Nordin, who started as a regular recruiter in La Grange, Ky., but is now commander of Nashville's virtual recruiting station. "I'm not saying I didn't enjoy going out to the malls and asking individuals if they wanted to recruit. But, I was more successful sending them a DM (direct message) or posting stuff about myself."

Nordin and Holt said the Army has done training sessions to teach recruiters how to get more

'We're going to empower the recruiters to allow for more autonomous recruiting.'

Maj. Gen. Frank Muth
head of the Army's
recruiting command

followers on Facebook and Instagram. Often, they said, recruiters can reach out to soldiers they've enlisted in the past and ask them to share posts, expanding the views of their online messages.

As part of the new, creative methods, Muth said he took an idea from McDonald's. A few years ago the fast-food juggernaut said it would hire 50,000 people in one day. Muth said he decided the Army could try the same thing.

So, on Tuesday, Muth launched "Army Hiring Days" and called on all service leaders at all levels to fill social media with recruiting messages. The goal is to bring in 10,000 recruits, and top leaders have already started turning to Twitter to tout soldier life.

"Army National Hiring Days coming June 30-July 2! The U.S. Army's first-ever nationwide virtual hiring campaign is a three-day event with a goal of finding 10,000 men and women to join our team," tweeted Gen. James McConville, the top Army officer.

Cash will be one of the incentives. Qualified recruits who enlist during the three-day event — www.goarmy.com/hiringdays — could qualify for a \$2,000 bonus. That will be on top of other incentives the Army offers for recruits who score high or enlist for some of the more critical jobs. For example, recruits who sign up as linguists, psychological operations specialists, Special Forces or intelligence collectors could get up to \$40,000 in bonuses over their initial enlistment.

High-demand jobs that qualify for smaller bonuses include infantry, missile defense and fire control specialists.

Crippling unemployment caused by the pandemic may help the Army's recruiting. When unemployment is low, there's a lot of competition for young people getting out of high school or college. But when it goes higher than 6% — it's now over 13% — the military becomes a more enticing option. Muth said he doesn't yet have data to determine the impact of this latest unemployment surge.

Nordin said he's seen some success over the past month. And a key message he's sending is that the Army is hiring.

And as for the Kroger delivery guy? He left for Army basic training on June 1.

"It just so happened that he was affected by the virus and I was able to help him," Holt said. "It felt awesome."



ISAIAH J. SOLIZ/U.S. Air Force

A Marine Corps volunteer prepares a meal for a fellow Marine at the Sandstorm field kitchen on Ahmed al-Jaber in April. The kitchen was stood up in an effort to further adhere to health protection levels.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Experts see no proof of child abuse surge amid pandemic

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the coronavirus pandemic took hold across the United States in mid-March, forcing schools to close and many children to be locked down in households buffeted by job losses and other forms of stress, many child welfare experts warned of a likely surge of child abuse.

Fifteen weeks later, the worries persist. Yet some experts on the front lines, including pediatricians who initially helped sound the alarm, said that they have seen no evidence of a marked increase.

Among them is Dr. Lori Frasier, who heads the child protection program at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center and is president of a national society of pediatricians specializing in child abuse prevention and treatment.

Frasier said that she received input in recent days from 18 of her colleagues across the country, and "no one has experienced the surge of abuse they were expecting."

A similar assessment came from Jerry Milner, who communicates with child protection agencies nationwide as head of the Children's Bureau at the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

"I'm not aware of any data that would substantiate that children are being abused at a higher rate during the pandemic," he told The Associated Press.

Still, some experts believe the actual level of abuse during the pandemic is being hidden from view because many children are seeing neither teachers nor doctors, and many child protection agencies have cut back on home visits by caseworkers.

"There's no question children are more at risk — and we won't be able to see those children until school reopens," said Marci Hamilton, a University of Pennsylvania professor who heads CHILH USA, a think tank seeking to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Several states said calls to their child abuse hotlines dropped by 40% or more, which they attributed to the fact that teachers and school nurses, who are required to report suspected abuse, no longer had direct contact with students.

"While calls have gone down, that doesn't mean abuse has stopped," said Gov. Chris Sununu of New Hampshire, which reported a 50% drop in hotline calls.

Comprehensive data on abuse during the pandemic won't be available for many months, according to Milner.

And whatever the current level of abuse, there's no question that some of it is horrific.

Georgia Boothe of Children's Aid, a private agency that provides some of New York City's foster care services, said some of the children now entering the system were brought in by police officers investigating domestic violence reports.

"The level of severity in some of

those cases is unreal," she said.

Fraser, the Pennsylvania-based pediatrician, said some of her colleagues documented a sharp increase in shaken baby syndrome and children's head injuries during the 2008 recession, which they attributed at least partly to economic stress.

"With the pandemic, we saw the high jobless rates, the layoffs, and we thought 'OK, now we're in that again,'" she said.

She and others have noted some changes during the pandemic — for example, more accidental injuries from burns, falls and mishaps on farms. What they have not seen is a surge of child abuse.

Fraser has a couple of guesses as to why — a protective effect in households where multiple people were locked down together and federal financial aid that eased the stress on some vulnerable families.

In Nashville, Tenn., Dr. Heather Williams says she and her colleagues who specialize in child abuse pediatrics were braced for a pandemic-fueled surge, based on the experiences of 2008. Now she wonders if the recent infusion of federal unemployment assistance may have helped ward off such an increase.

"We'd be really excited if we're wrong," she said.

At the Children's Bureau, Milner says he's gratified that child protection is deemed a high priority during the pandemic, but he was troubled by the tone of some of the early warnings. He suggested



THOM BRIDGE, (HELENA, MONT.) INDEPENDENT RECORD/AP

A sign announcing an elementary school in Helena, Mont., is closed.

that some had "racist underpinnings" — unfairly stereotyping low-income parents of color as prone to abusive behavior.

"To sound alarm bells, because teachers aren't seeing kids every day, that parents are waiting to harm their kids — it's an unfair depiction of so many parents out there doing the best under very tough circumstances," he said.

One of Milner's top aides, special assistant David Kelly, noted that in normal times, a large majority of calls to child abuse hotlines don't actually trigger investigations.

"We know that the majority of findings of child maltreatment are for neglect, not physical abuse or exploitation, and we know that there are strong associations between neglect and challenges associated with poverty," Kelly wrote in a June 12 article in the Chronicle of Social Change.

"If we take a closer look ... we might be able to see the depth of resiliency that is present and the remarkable efforts poor parents make to get by on the small fraction of what many of us have."

Concerns about children's well-being amid the pandemic extend beyond physical abuse. There are worries about children missing vaccinations as their parents skip visits to doctors' offices.

For children with internet access, weeks away from school have increased the risk of online sexual exploitation, according to Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau. She heads the Johns Hopkins Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

Letourneau, however, is encouraged by one recent trend — more older children are calling hotlines themselves to report exploitation and abuse.

Assessing the risks of flying during the pandemic

Associated Press

How risky is flying during the coronavirus pandemic?

Flying can increase your risk of exposure to infection, but airlines are taking some precautions, and you can as well.

Air travel means spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which puts you into close contact with other people. As travel slowly recovers, planes are becoming more crowded, which means you will likely sit close to other people, often for hours, which raises your risk.

Once on a plane, most viruses and other germs don't spread easily because of the way air circulates, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Airlines have also said they are focusing on sanitizing the hard surfaces that passengers commonly touch.

Some airlines like Alaska, Delta, JetBlue and Southwest are blocking middle seats or limiting capacity. But even if every middle seat is empty, you will likely

be closer than the recommended distance of 6 feet to another passenger now that planes are getting fuller.

American, United and Spirit are now booking flights to full capacity when they can. All leading U.S. airlines require passengers to wear masks. Lauren Ancel Meyers, an expert in disease outbreaks at the University of Texas, says that can help limit risk.

For air travel, and all other types of transportation, the CDC recommends washing your hands, maintaining social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Several airlines announced Monday that they will ask passengers about possible COVID-19 symptoms and whether they have been in contact with someone who tested positive for the virus in the previous two weeks.

Still, Meyers said you still might consider whether you need to be on that plane. "We should all be in the mindset of 'only if necessary' and always taking the most precautions we can to protect ourselves and others," she said.



EMILIO MORENATI/AP

Passengers arrive at the Barcelona airport in Spain on Tuesday.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Voting underway as Texas looks to contain cases

Associated Press

PLANO — Three months after Republican Gov. Greg Abbott postponed primary runoffs to July 14 — saying at the time that sticking to the original May election “would threaten the health and safety of many” — Texas is voting at a moment when the outbreak is far more dire. Confirmed coronavirus cases quadrupled in June, Houston hospitals are filling up and Abbott is retreating from one of America’s swiftest reopenings by shuttering bars and scaling back restaurant service.

The result is that at a moment when Abbott is urging the public to stay home, thousands are starting to go to the polls.

And by the looks of it, even more are still going to the gym: At the Carpenter Park Recreation Center, a polling location in the Dallas suburb of Plano, most of the steady, single-file traffic heading in on the first day of early voting were there to work out, not cast a ballot.

Alaska

JUNEAU — The Anchorage city attorney said Monday that a memo from Alaska Attorney General Kevin Clarkson, exempting state buildings from a city mask order meant to guard against the coronavirus, “unnecessarily risks” the health of residents who work for or do business with state agencies.

Clarkson’s memo “sows confusion” and provides “inaccurate legal advice,” Kate Vogel, municipal attorney for Anchorage, said in a statement.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowicz signed an order Friday requiring face coverings in certain indoor public settings, such as stores, restaurants, public transit and communal office areas where people from multiple households are present. The order took effect Monday and contains numerous exceptions, including for young children and people who cannot tolerate a mask for health reasons.

In a memo to state workers Friday, Clarkson said the mayor’s order does not apply to state buildings and facilities in Anchorage. The memo says Gov. Mike Dunleavy supports state employees who choose to wear face coverings.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas’ confirmed coronavirus cases now exceed 20,000 people, health officials said Monday as they announced an additional death from the illness caused by the virus.

The state’s Department of Health said at least 20,257 people have tested positive for the virus, an increase of 439 from Sunday. The department said 5,926 of those cases are considered active, meaning they don’t include people who have died or who have recovered.

The number of people who have died from COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, increased by one on Monday to 265. The number of people hospitalized increased by 17 to 300.

Arkansas’ confirmed virus cases have been steadily increasing since last month, when the state began allowing businesses that had closed because of the pandemic to reopen. The number of active cases in the state have increased more than 256% since Memorial Day, while the number of people hospitalized has tripled in that same time period.

California

SACRAMENTO — Los Angeles will close beaches and ban fireworks displays over the holiday weekend as California officials warned that further restrictions may be necessary to curb a troubling spike in coronavirus cases in much of the state.

Large Fourth of July gatherings are “a recipe for increased transmission of COVID-19,” Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health for Los Angeles County, said Monday.

The 10-million-resident county hit a one-day record of 2,903 confirmed cases and more than 100,000 overall.

Ferrer warned Los Angeles could soon be on a “runaway train.” She said the county’s infection rate among those tested has reached 9%. The state’s rate is about 5.5%.

Florida

ST. PETERSBURG — Hundreds of people lined up at coronavirus testing sites around Florida on Monday as the state remained in the virus’s grip.

St. Petersburg Police said on Twitter that a testing site located at Tropicana Field — where the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team normally plays — closed early because it was at capacity, shortly after 8 a.m.

The site ran out of tests, officials said. More than five hundred people lined up in their cars for testing. Police said the Florida Department of Health and BayCare, a hospital system asked people to “try again” when testing resumed Tuesday at 7 a.m.

In Jacksonville, more than 300 cars lined up for testing at the



LM OTERO/AP

Katharyn Hernandez, left, her husband, Gilbert Hernandez, right, and their daughter Leigh Ann Hernandez leave the polling station after casting their ballots in early voting Monday in Plano, Texas.

TIAA Bank Field, where the NFL Jaguars play. The city’s leaders on Monday enacted a mandatory mask requirement for public and indoor locations, and “in other situations where individuals cannot socially distance.”

Nevada

CARSON CITY — As Nevada experiences an uptick in confirmed cases reported daily, both rural districts with less than 100 students and urban districts with hundreds of thousands are forming reopening committees responsible for envisioning what school will look like when students return for the fall semester.

In rural northern Nevada, Churchill County School District administrators have been reviewing online surveys about remote learning and discussing with local officials how to best reopen before unveiling a plan. Superintendent Summer Stephens said parents were worried about child care and whether remote learning would allow students to grasp material to the same extent as classroom learning.

Las Vegas has faced a barrage of concern and questions from workers, business owners and public health officials about its plans to reopen its tourism industry, which attracts almost 50 million visitors annually. But to John Vellardita, executive director of the Clark County Education Association, the challenge of planning to bring almost 400,000 people through the region’s schools each week without creating more coronavirus hot spots is incredibly daunting.

New Jersey

ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday postponed the resumption of indoor dining, and banned drinking and smoking at Atlantic City’s casinos as they reopen this week, causing one casino to scrap plans to reopen anytime soon.

Murphy said he acted because of a lack of compliance over the use of face masks and social distancing as the coronavirus outbreak continues to rage in many parts of the country.

The decisions had an immediate effect: Atlantic City’s top-performing casino, the Borgata, dropped its plans to reopen soon. It had planned to hold an invitation-only “soft opening” Thursday and open its doors to the general public starting July 6.

Now, neither of those things is happening for the immediate future, and it was unclear late Monday whether the one-two punch of a smoking and drinking ban would cause other casinos to postpone their reopenings as well.

South Carolina

COLUMBIA — South Carolina hospitals now hold more than 1,000 patients with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, and more than 10 localities have ordered people to wear masks to fight transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease.

There are now 1,032 such patients, the Department of Health and Environmental Control reported Monday.

The department said that 1,320 new cases of the disease caused by the new coronavirus brought

South Carolina’s total to more than 34,500. The number of confirmed deaths rose by four, to at least 717.

At least 11 cities, towns and counties are either requiring masks or will soon begin doing so, according to news outlets. Gov. Henry McMaster has said he won’t order masks worn statewide because enforcement would be impossible.

West Virginia

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice is done talking about why he pushed out a top health official during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican governor deflected multiple questions Monday about the forced resignation of former public health commissioner Cathy Slemo as he continued to doubt the accuracy of the state’s virus caseload numbers.

Justice has said he thinks the state’s active caseload may have been overstated, floating the idea that the tally could be exaggerated by around 300 cases while providing little detail. He has blamed Slemo, who has worked for decades in public health, and suggested she was responsible for the discrepancy before having her removed from her post last week.

Hours after Justice’s news conference, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources said caseload discrepancies emerged because local health departments didn’t clear active cases from the state’s electronic reporting system, and that the DHHR didn’t follow up to verify the data.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Budget woes might halt drive-up citizenship

BY BEN FOX
AND MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

DETROIT — A 60-year-old U.K. citizen drove into a Detroit parking garage on a recent afternoon, lowered the window of her SUV to swear an oath, and left as a newly minted American.

It took less than 30 minutes.

Anita Rosenberger is among thousands of people around the country who have taken the final step to citizenship this month under COVID-19 social-distancing rules that have turned what has long been a patriotic rite of passage into something more like a visit to a fast-food restaurant.

"It was a nice experience in spite of the fact that I was in the car by myself with a mask on," said Rosenberger, a sales manager for an electronics component company from suburban Detroit. "And I will say that I will remember this."

Similar drive-thru ceremonies are being held around the country, but perhaps for not much longer. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services says a budget crisis could force the agency to furlough nearly three-quarters of its workforce, severely curtailing operations as tens of thousands of people wait to become citizens.

That could have potential political consequences, especially in states such as Michigan and Florida where the number of newly naturalized Americans already exceeds the narrow margin of victory for President Donald Trump in 2016.

"I wouldn't be surprised if you have several hundred thousand people who are not in a position to vote in this election but would have been if business had been progressing normally at USCIS," said Randy Capps of the Migration Policy Institute. "That's been everyone's concern."

The citizenship agency has not detailed publicly how it will operate if it doesn't get \$1.2 billion in emergency funding from Congress before Aug. 3. It said in a written response to questions that "all USCIS operations will be impacted by a furlough" that covers more than 13,000 workers.

USCIS derives nearly all its



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

People take the Oath of Allegiance during a drive-thru naturalization ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa, on Friday. Thousands of people are participating in such ceremonies as the country has resumed swearing in new citizens, but a budget crisis at the citizenship agency is threatening to stall ceremonies again.

\$4.8 billion budget from fees it charges to people who apply to live or work in the country. Revenue was already in decline under Trump, whose administration has imposed a number of immigration restrictions. The agency says COVID-19 caused it to drop by half.

"The effects of the coronavirus pandemic are long reaching and pervasive, leaving few unscathed in its wake," Acting Director Joseph Edlow said.

In written responses to questions, the agency says it would pay back the money it receives from Congress with a 10% surcharge on fees.

While the agency cites the pandemic for its budget woes, immigration experts and a USCIS employee union say other factors include administration policies of devoting more resources to vetting applications and searching for fraud.

The administration has also halted a number of programs — including a recent freeze on H-1B visas for skilled workers — that

‘It was a nice experience in spite of the fact that I was in the car by myself with a mask on. And I will say that I will remember this.’

Anita Rosenberger
new American citizen

provide an important source of revenue for USCIS.

"The agency has really moved away from its mission and become more of an enforcement agency that carries out the agenda of the Trump administration," said Diego Iniguez-Lopez, policy and campaigns manager for the National Partnership for New Americans, an immigrant advocacy organization.

USCIS typically swears in 15,000 new citizens per week.

The agency said there were about 110,000 people waiting to take the oath when they shut down in-person operations in March because of the virus. It said it expects to work through the backlog by the end of July, thanks in part to ceremonies like the one held at the federal building in Detroit or similar ones outside a minor league baseball stadium in Des Moines, Iowa, and a community recreation center near San Diego.

Some in Congress have pushed to allow virtual swearing-in ceremonies, but the agency has refused.

Behind those waiting for the ceremony are a long line of some 700,000 people who have submitted applications for naturalization, facing an average time to process that has risen to 10 months from six months in the last year of the Obama administration.

That backlog has a number of causes, including a surge in interest due to the election of a president who has made restricting immigration a centerpiece of his administration and the increased

scrutiny of applications, said Capps, director of research for U.S. programs at the Migration Policy Institute.

Acting Deputy Department of Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli presided over a naturalization ceremony Monday in Washington for 20 people, including an Afghan interpreter credited with saving five U.S. soldiers. "Welcome to you and your country from a grateful nation," he said later on Twitter.

Others who are sworn in are as varied as the country. Rosenberger, whose father brought her to the U.S. in 1968 so he could work for an electronics manufacturer, put off applying for citizenship for years in part because she liked having a U.K. passport. Then, when she did attempt it, her paperwork was lost. She reapplied in November. "I thought, the way this country is going I better get my citizenship now."

Others are more recent arrivals. Malugeta Turuneh came to the United States as a refugee from Eritrea in 2011 and settled in Iowa City, where he works as a truck driver. He took the oath Friday in Des Moines after a delay of several months because of the outbreak.

"God bless America," Turuneh said afterward. "I'm so happy here. Everything is nice. Everything is cool."

Iris Lapihan, who came to the U.S. from the Philippines as a child in the 1990s, was among those naturalizing at a recreation center in El Cajon, Calif. She said she is looking forward to being able to travel outside the United States and participate in the election. She said she was leaning toward former Vice President Joe Biden. "I'm excited that I can go vote, especially with what is going on now," she said.

Rosenberger is leaning the other way, saying she is generally conservative and would most likely support Trump. "Now that I'm a citizen I'm very excited about voting," she said. "You have the right now, so use it."

Studies: 285 US children developed serious virus-linked condition

Associated Press

At least 285 U.S. children have developed a serious inflammatory condition linked to the coronavirus and while most recovered, the potential for long-term or permanent damage is unknown, two new studies suggest.

The papers, published online Monday in the New England Journal of Medicine, provide the full report yet on the condition.

The condition is known as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. It is considered uncommon and deaths are rare; six

children died among the 285 in the new studies.

Including cases in Europe, where it was first reported, about 1,000 children worldwide have been affected, a journal editorial said.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's case definition includes current or recent COVID-19 infection or exposure to the virus; a fever of at least 100.4 F for at least 24 hours; severe illness requiring hospitalization; inflammatory markers in blood tests, and evidence of prob-

lems affecting at least two organs that could include the heart, kidneys, lungs, skin or other nervous system.

Digestive symptoms including nausea and diarrhea are common. Some children may have symptoms resembling Kawasaki disease, a rare condition in children that can cause swelling and heart problems.

At least 35 states have had cases, and they seem to crop up a few weeks after local COVID-19 activity peaks, said Dr. Adrienne Randolph of Boston Children's

Hospital. She is a lead researcher for a multistate study that includes CDC scientists. The second paper involved 99 children in New York state, where the first U.S. cases occurred.

Combined, the papers show 285 cases from March thru mid to late May but Randolph said additional U.S. children have been diagnosed in June.

Most had current or recent COVID-19 infections but had previously been healthy.

About 80% of children in the multistate study had heart-re-

lated problems, which included coronary aneurysms — a bulge in a heart artery that can be fatal.

"Those need to be followed up," Randolph said. "This is a life-threatening concern for a lot of patients."

Most affected children had no other health condition but about 30% were obese. The condition also appears to disproportionately affect Latino and Black children and boys.

The average age was 8 years old. Researchers don't know if adults can be affected.

NATION

Air Force sergeant indicted in federal guard killing

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A federal grand jury indicted an Air Force sergeant for murder and attempted murder after he allegedly killed a federal security guard in Northern California and wounded his partner amid protests against police brutality, a judge said Monday.

Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler told Steven Carrillo, 32, that the grand jury charged him in the indictment with first-degree

murder of a person assisting an officer or employee of the United States and attempted murder of a person assisting an officer or employee of the U.S., the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Carrillo is accused of spraying bullets across a guard shack May 29 in front of a federal building in Oakland, killing 53-year-old David Patrick Underwood and wounding another official.

Carrillo did not enter a plea Monday. His case was scheduled until Thursday, when he is expected to be appointed a lawyer.

A week after the shooting in Oakland, Carrillo allegedly ambushed sheriff's deputies in Santa Cruz County who were responding to a report of a van containing firearms and bomb-making materials. Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, 38, was killed and several other law enforcement officials were wounded, according to authorities and court records.

Prosecutors in Santa Cruz charged Carrillo with a slew of felonies, including murder and attempted murder in connection to the Ben Lomond incident.

Federal prosecutors have linked Carrillo with the charges to an extremist, anti-government group called the Boogaloo movement. The group started in alt-right culture on the internet with the belief that there is an impending civil war, according to experts. The movement's followers, some of whom call themselves "Boogaloo Bois," are generally younger and more likely to turn to acts of violence than members

of other militia-type groups.

Authorities accused Carrillo of fatally shooting Underwood from a white van after developing a plot with Robert Alvin Justus Jr., of Millbrae. The pair allegedly drove to Oakland and took advantage of the distraction afforded by protesters marching through the city's downtown in a demonstration against police brutality. Justus is accused of driving the van.

Justus was arraigned on Friday, and entered a not-guilty plea.

Golden State Killer admits to murders, rapes for life in prison

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gay Hardwick stood arm-in-arm with her husband to face a criminal dubbed the Golden State Killer and couldn't recognize the elderly man hunched in a wheelchair as the sadistic rapist who had terrorized them 42 years earlier.

In a hushed and raspy voice, Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. — a serial rapist before he became a serial killer — acknowledged in two words, "I admit," that he had attacked the couple in 1978 as he pleaded guilty Monday to 13 murders, and admitted dozens of rapes and crimes too old to be prosecuted as part of a deal to

avoid the death penalty.

"It was the clenched teeth and, you know, the breathy voice, so there really wasn't any resemblance — there isn't any resemblance to the old man that sits before us today," Gay Hardwick said. "I'm not sure that a lot of that isn't feigned."

DeAngelo, who hid behind a ski mask during his crimes, sat behind a clear plastic shield to allow surviving victims and their families to see his face even as they wore masks to prevent possible spread of the coronavirus. The court hearing was held at a Sacramento State University ballroom to accommodate more than

150 observers at a safe distance during the pandemic.

The seemingly frail and feeble 74-year-old ex-cop, who once busted into bedrooms spewing expletives and threatening to use a .357 Magnum to blow the heads off anyone who moved, seemed lost as he turned to his lawyer each time a prosecutor recited the lurid details of attacks that terrified a swath of Northern California in the 1970s.

But where some saw a frail and confused man, others saw a master manipulator.

The day before his arrest in 2018, DeAngelo weaved his motorcycle through freeway traffic



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Joseph James DeAngelo Jr., known as the Golden State Killer, huddles with public defender Diane Howard, during a hearing in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday where he pleaded guilty to 13 murders, and dozens of other crimes to avoid the death penalty.

to lose police who were tailing him, prosecutors said. When he appeared in a court two days

later, he looked like the lost man who listed sideways Monday with his mouth half open.

Supreme Court declines to hear challenge to Trump's border wall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is leaving in place a decision that rejected environmental groups' challenge to sections of wall the Trump administration is building along the U.S. border with Mexico.

The high court on Monday declined to

hear an appeal involving construction of 145 miles of steel-bollard walls along the border in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas.

The Center for Biological Diversity, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Southwest Environmental Center had challenged a federal law

that allows the secretary of Homeland Security to waive any laws necessary to allow the quick construction of border fencing. The groups had argued that violates the Constitution's separation of powers. But a lower court dismissed the case.

This is not the first time the Supreme Court has weighed in on border

wall construction during the Trump administration.

Last year, the high court gave the administration the go-ahead to tap billions of dollars in Pentagon funds to replace barriers along the border with Mexico in Arizona, California and New Mexico with more robust fencing.

NEW TO THE PACIFIC?

Contact CustomerHelp@stripes.com to get your free copy of

Welcome to the Pacific magazine!

STARS AND STRIPES

Digital edition also available. Download online



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVING
US MILITARY IN THE PACIFIC • 1945-2020



75.stripes.com
STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

Split high court throws out Louisiana abortion clinic limit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court on Monday struck down a Louisiana law regulating abortion clinics, reasserting a commitment to abortion rights over fierce opposition from dissenting conservative justices in the first big abortion case of the Trump era.

Chief Justice John Roberts and his four more liberal colleagues ruled that a law that requires doctors who perform abortions must have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals violates abortion rights the court first announced in the landmark Roe v. Wade decision in 1973.

The outcome is far from the last word on the decadeslong fight over abortion with dozens of state-imposed restrictions winding their way through the courts. But the decision was a surprising defeat for abortion opponents, who thought that a new conservative majority with two of President Donald Trump's appointees on board would start chipping

away at abortion access.

The key vote belonged to Roberts, who had always voted against abortion rights before, including in a 2016 case in which the court struck down a Texas law that was virtually identical to the one in Louisiana.

The chief justice explained that he continues to think the Texas case was wrongly decided, but believes it's important for the court to stand by its prior decisions.

"The result in this case is controlled by our decision four years ago invalidating a nearly identical Texas law," Roberts wrote. He did not join the opinion written by Justice Stephen Breyer for the other liberals in Monday's decision, and his position left abortion-rights supporters more relieved than elated.

The case was the third in two weeks in which Roberts, a George W. Bush appointee, joined the court's liberals in the majority. One of the earlier decisions preserved the legal protections and work authorization for 650,000

immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. The other extended federal employment-discrimination protections to LGBT Americans, a decision that Justice Neil Gorsuch also joined and wrote.

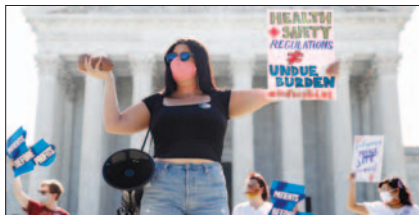
In dissent on Monday, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote, "Today a majority of the Court perpetuates its ill-founded abortion jurisprudence by enjoining a perfectly legitimate state law and doing so without jurisdiction."

Trump's two high-court picks, Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, were in dissent, along with Samuel Alito.

The presence of the new justices is what had fueled hopes among abortion opponents, and fears on the other side, that the Supreme Court would be more likely to uphold restrictions.

The Trump administration had sided with Louisiana in urging the court to uphold the law.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany criticized the decision.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Terrisa Bukovinac holds a model of a fetus along with other anti-abortion protesters outside the Supreme Court on Monday.

Iowa governor signs abortion law amid court challenge

Associated Press

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds on Monday signed into law a bill that requires women to wait 24 hours before getting an abortion, trying again to institute a restriction similar to one struck down two years ago by the Iowa Supreme Court.

Reynolds signed the measure into law just after lawyers representing Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and the state wrapped up arguments before a state court judge. The court must

now decide whether to halt immediately enforcement of the new law, which was set to take effect Wednesday.

Planned Parenthood claims in a lawsuit filed last week that the bill is unconstitutional in the way it was passed in the night without public debate. The group argues that the bill also violates the due process and equal protection rights of women seeking an abortion, much like a 72-hour waiting period law the Iowa Supreme Court struck down in 2018.

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

<p>GERMANY Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de</p>	<p>UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk</p>	<p>U.S.A. +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us</p>
---	---	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCIES

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police catch escaped murder suspect

WV HOLDEN — A West Virginia man accused of murder was captured by authorities Sunday night after he escaped from a transport van earlier in the day, police said.

Dominick Joseph McClung, 18, escaped from a parked Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center transport van at a convenience store Sunday at 4:30 p.m., news outlets reported.

McClung was captured by State Police around 8 p.m. and was booked in the South Western Regional Jail.

McClung was arrested last fall and charged as an adult with first-degree murder in the death of 68-year-old Karen Yeager.

Workers fired after swastika found on pizza

OH BROOK PARK — Two employees were fired after an Ohio couple who purchased a pizza at Little Caesars found that pepperonis had been placed to form a backward swastika.

Misty and Jason Laska made the discovery when they opened the box that they had purchased at the store on Smith Road on Saturday.

The Laskas said they tried calling the store, but were unable to reach anyone.

Little Caesar Enterprises released a statement to WOIO-TV: "We have zero tolerance for racism and discrimination in any form, and these franchising store employees were immediately terminated. We're deeply disappointed that this happened, as this conduct is completely against our values."

At least 6 sickened by recalled salad mixes

ND BISMARCK — At least six people in North Dakota have been sickened with illness associated with bagged salad mixes, according to the state Department of Health.

The cases are part of a larger outbreak occurring in Midwest states. All six in North Dakota ate Marketside brand salad.

The mixed salads were sold at Hy-Vee, Jewel-Osco and Aldi grocery stores and are contaminated with cyclospora, a parasite that can cause flu-like symptoms. The other brands are Hy-Vee and Little Salad Bar.

Consumers in 12 states are affected by a recall of the products which have sickened dozens of people, including some who were hospitalized.

Police reel in man seen swimming in fish tank

LA BOSSIER CITY — Police in Louisiana were able to reel in a man captured on video swimming through a fish tank at a sporting goods store.

Kevin Wise, 26, told KSLA-TV that he plunged into the indoor aquarium at a Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City last week to follow through on a promise he made



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Quick dip at dusk

A family cools off in Shawnee Mission Lake at dusk on Sunday in Lenexa, Kan. The 120-acre lake is part of Shawnee Mission Park, which is the second largest park in the county and the most visited park in the state.

to followers on the social media platform TikTok.

"I said that if I got 2,000 likes I would jump in the tank," Wise said. "I got way more than that and didn't want to be a liar."

Bass Pro Shops filed a complaint with the Bossier City Police Department Friday, saying it cost them to empty out the 13,000-gallon aquarium and clean it after Wise's swim, KTAL-TV reported.

Wise was charged with simple criminal damage to property and released with a citation to appear in court, police said.

State Supreme Court upholds magazine limit

CO DENVER — The Colorado Supreme Court on Monday upheld the state's ban on large capacity gun magazines, saying limiting magazines to 15 rounds does not prevent people from bearing arms to defend themselves as required by the state constitution.

The law was passed in 2013, a year after the Aurora theater shooting, to limit the number of deaths in mass shootings. While large capacity magazines were used in the Columbine and Aurora shootings, opponents of the law said they have also been widely used by gun owners.

THE CENSUS

500

The approximate size in acres a Utah wildfire grew to after forcing out residents of several houses and an apartment building early Sunday. Officials said the fire was started by fireworks, and a suspect was cooperating with law enforcement, Utah Fire Info said in a tweet. No injuries and only minor structural damage were immediately reported, and some residents who evacuated were later allowed to return.

A legal challenge brought by Rocky Mountain Gun Owners and the National Association for Gun Rights was based on the gun rights' provision in the Colorado Constitution, which expressly protects the right of people to be armed to defend their homes, property and themselves.

13-year-old female lion at zoo dies from illness

TN KNOXVILLE — A Tennessee zoo has lost its second female African lion to illness in the past year.

Zoo Knoxville officials announced the death of a 13-year-old lioness named Ann on Saturday, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported. She died of suspected complications after undergoing surgery for an infection. Ann was born at the zoo in 2006. The zoo's other female Af-

rican lion, Elsa, died last year. Two male lions remain: Jimmy and Zarin.

Veteran gets new home thanks to nonprofit

RI COVENTRY — An Army veteran has become the first person in Rhode Island to receive a mortgage-free home from a national foundation that supports military members injured in combat.

Sgt. Bryan Cline said this week that being handed the keys to his Coventry home is "an amazing feeling," according to WJAR-TV. Originally from Arizona, Cline and his family were selected to receive a mortgage-free home courtesy of Citizens Bank and the Military Warriors Support Foundation.

There's a competitive vetting process for veterans who could

use the gift of a home.

Ship collision likely led to death of whale

NJ MONMOUTH BEACH — Preliminary observations of a dead rare whale off the coast of New Jersey are consistent with a collision with a ship, federal authorities said.

The whale was a North Atlantic right whale and its carcass was found Friday off Monmouth Beach, N.J. The whales number only about 400 and they are vulnerable to collisions with ships and fatal entanglements in fishing gear.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the whale has been identified as a male calf. The whale was the first of 10 reported calves from the 2019-20 season, NOAA said.

Philip Hamilton, a research scientist with the New England Aquarium in Boston and manager of the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog, said the death of the animal is "distressing and yet another setback for an endangered species we are working tirelessly to protect." The whales have suffered from poor reproduction and high mortality in recent years.

From wire reports

FACES



AP

Carl Reiner, a presence on the comedy scene from the 1950s through the "Ocean's Eleven" movies in the early 2000s, died Monday. He was 98.

Comedy legend Carl Reiner dies

Carl Reiner, the ingenious and versatile writer, actor and director who broke through as a "second banana" to Sid Caesar and rose to comedy's front ranks as creator of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and straight man to Mel Brooks' "2000 Year Old Man," has died. He was 98.

Reiner's assistant Judy Nagy said he died Monday night of natural causes at his home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The tall, bald Reiner, who served in the Army during World War II, was one of show business' best-liked men. He was a welcome face on the small and silver screens, in Caesar's 1950s troupe, as the snarling, toopcewearing Alan Brady of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and in such films as "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World."

Films he directed included "Oh, God!" starring George Burns and John Denver, and "All Me" with Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin.

In recent years, he was part of the roguish gang in the "Ocean's Eleven" movies starring George Clooney.

Reiner's son, actor-director Rob Reiner, said in a tweet Tuesday that his "heart is hurting. He was my guiding light."

Carl Reiner won multiple Emmys for his television work. In 2000, he received the Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for Humor.

Other news

■ **The MTV Video Music Awards** will go ahead despite the coronavirus pandemic. An MTV spokesperson confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday that the show will take place Aug. 30 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

■ **Nicole Young**, Dr. Dre's wife of 24 years, filed documents seeking to end her marriage with Dr. Dre — the producer, rapper and music mogul whose real name is Andre Young — Monday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. She cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split.

■ **AMC Theaters**, the nation's largest chain, is pushing back its plans to begin reopening theaters following the closure because of COVID-19. The company said it would open approximately 450 U.S. locations July 30 and the remaining 150 the following week.

From wire reports

Country artists slammed over shows

Fellow musicians, fans react to crowds without masks in concert photos, videos

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Fellow musicians and fans alike are criticizing country artists who performed at outdoor concerts last weekend where social media pictures showed large, tight crowds without masks, even as COVID-19 cases resurge in the U.S.

Country singer Chase Rice posted video of his concert in East Tennessee with the words "We Back," on the same week state health officials reported the biggest one-day jump in people testing positive for the coronavirus.

Country star Kelsea Ballerini called Rice "selfish" for risking people's health by playing in front of a large crowd. Americana star Jason Isbell also indirectly piled on, saying some country artists were "so broke" they played concerts over the weekend "regardless of what might happen to their non-isolated, maskless audience!" Country singer Mickey Guyton said video of the crowd at Rice's concert made her sick to her stomach.

Rice addressed the controversy on Monday in a social media post in which he said, "There's a lot of varying opinions, lot of different opinions on COVID-19, how it works with live music, crowds." He said that fans' safety is a huge priority and said his next show will be a drive-in show in Kentucky. He asked fans to "please go by the rules, please go by the laws."

The owner of the venue where Rice played in Tennessee said the concert was approved by both city and county officials.

"We are reevaluating the series from the top to bottom following the inaugural show on June 27 — from implementing further safety



Rice



AP

Chris Janson, shown performing last year at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, performed at an outdoor festival in Filer, Idaho, last weekend. A label representative for Janson said Highway 30 Music Fest organizers "assured all performers and concert attendees they were safe and following all local guidelines."

measures, to adding stanchions, to converting the space to drive-in style concerts, to postponing shows," said Brian May, who co-owns the former Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, where the concert was held.

May said the venue has a normal capacity of 10,000, but only 954 tickets were sold in advance and state guidelines allowed for 50% capacity in an outdoor venue. May also said they asked all guests to wear masks and had signs encouraging social distance.

Country singer Chris Janson also played an outdoor music festival in Filer, Idaho, where the governor decided to keep the state at stage 4 of reopening despite a recent surge in infections.

Festival organizers "assured all performers and concert attendees they were safe and following all local guidelines," a label representative for Janson said in a statement.

A statement from the Highway 30 Music Fest said they added more bleachers so fans could spread out and be socially distant, although a recap video on their social media account showed some crowding at the front of stages and hardly any people wearing masks.

"Chris was one of two dozen performers to fulfill a contractual obligation after being told that last weekend's event would adhere to all safety and social distancing protocols," the statement read.

New this week: 'Hamilton,' Willie and Whitney

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ **"Hamilton":** Disney Plus does not want to throw away its shot. On Friday, the streaming service will debut the much-anticipated live capture of the hit Broadway show. With Broadway theaters dark until at least early January, it's the closest anyone can get right now to Lin-Manuel Miranda's pop-culture sensation — and, at least this way, tickets are far easier to come by. The PG-13 film was shot in summer 2016 during two "Hamilton" performances with the original cast, and it comes complete with an intermission.

■ **"John Lewis: Good Trouble":** "There are forces today trying to take us back to another time," says U.S. Civil Rights leader and Congressman John Lewis in the opening of Dawn Porter's documentary. "We have miles to go." Few voices have echoed louder and more truthfully through the last 55 years of American life than the 80-year-old Lewis. Porter's film, debuting on-demand Friday, is a sturdy vessel for Lewis' story.

■ **"Western Noir":** Film noir and the Western are the two great, intrinsically American

genres of moviemaking and they can feel like diametric opposites. One is harshly bright and mapped across open plains, the other is cloaked in shadow and hustles down dark urban alleyways. But a new series, beginning Sunday on the Criterion Channel, finds common ground in a batch of post-WWII films of frontier gloom, including Anthony Mann's "The Naked Spur" (1953), with Jimmy Stewart and Robert Ryan; Robert Wise's "Blood on the Moon" (1948), with Robert Mitchum; and Fritz Lang's "Rancho Notorious," with Marlene Dietrich.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ **Whitney Houston:** Thirty-five years ago the icon Whitney Houston released her self-titled debut album, taking over radio station across the world with anthems like "You Give Good Love," "Saving All My Love for You," "How Will I Know" and "Greatest Love of All." To commemorate its milestone anniversary, Sony's Legacy Recordings is releasing a 2 LP vinyl version of the 13x platinum album on Tuesday. The package will also include a second album — the U.S. release of the "Whitney Dancin' Special" EP/remix album — which was previously released only in Japan in 1986.

■ **Willie Nelson:** Lucky No. 70. You read

that right. The legend Willie Nelson will release his 70th studio album, "First Rose of Spring," on Friday. The album was originally supposed to drop in April days before he turned 87, but was pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic. "First Rose of Spring" features two new songs as well as Nelson's interpretations of tunes written by others, including Chris Stapleton and Toby Keith.

— AP Music Editor Mesfin Fekadu

Television

Americans who take voting for granted may get inspiration from **"The Vote,"** a two-part, four-hour PBS documentary marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that gave women the vote. Part one details the work of suffrage pioneers and the clash between the rights of African American women and efforts to gain support in former Confederate states. The second half further explores the role of race and the decision to focus on passage of a federal amendment. Emmy-winning filmmaker Michelle Ferraris on PBS' "The Vote" aired Monday and Tuesday on PBS' "American Experience," but it's coming to AFN on July 8 and 9. (It also can be viewed at pbs.org.)

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moore.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+1-202-886-0033

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+1-81-452.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (31)5227.7380

Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202-886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CONTRIBUTOR

Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.reisman.na@gmail.com
xscruciation@stripes.com
DSN (31)583-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Communities Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
karen.lewis@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (31)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, Customer Help@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (31)5227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

(+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

OMBUSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly twice (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2020

stripes.com

OPINION

Ruling lets agency still protect consumers

By RICHARD CORDRAY

Special to The Washington Post

For six years, I served as the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In 2010, Congress determined that this important new agency should have a single leader, with independent tenure protections, to make the hard decisions about how best to protect consumers against big banks and financial companies.

Our aggressive work to protect people from being cheated and mistreated understandably aroused opposition from some of these powerful companies. And so, ever since, the financial industry has been peppering the bureau with various challenges to its constitutionality. Among them was the claim that a single director of an agency wielding so much power does not square with strong notions of presidential control over the executive branch of the government. Some courts accepted this claim; others rejected it. Eventually, the case found its way to the Supreme Court, and Monday, in *Sela Law v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, the court issued a 5-4 ruling striking down the bureau's leadership structure.

On its face, that sounds like a big blow. The court's holding that the agency was established in an unconstitutional manner might seem to jeopardize everything it does and all that it has ever done. Certainly, when the financial companies first began raising these claims, they did so with a desire to force the CFPB out of business once and for all.

But that is not the upshot of the decision. If anything, this ruling is a sheep that comes in wolf's clothing. Although the

court did invalidate the independent tenure of the CFPB's single director, seven of the nine justices stopped right there and refused to go further. By carefully slicing off the tenure protections for the director, they left all other aspects of the agency in place. In fact, Chief Justice John Roberts pointedly noted that "the CFPB's structure and duties remain fully operative without the offending tenure restriction."

At least for the foreseeable future, this "losing" verdict represents a big victory for consumers, in three respects. First, this case was the last gasp for the CFPB's opponents, who had hoped to dismember it through the courts. No tenable constitutional challenges remain to the bureau's considerable authority. As no less an avowed critic than former acting director Mick Mulvaney has grudgingly conceded, the CFPB "is not going anywhere," and it is "going to play an important role in government."

Second, the constitutional challenges had repeatedly impeded the bureau's enforcement work in many cases. Just as the agency's lawyers were trying to focus the court on predatory or deceptive acts by certain companies, those companies would throw the constitutional flag to gum up the works. By raising these arguments, they secured delays that stretched for months or even years to prevent the courts from addressing their conduct. Now, with the constitutional issue definitively settled by the highest court in the land, those tactics will no longer be effective.

Third, and most ironically, the immediate effect of the court's decision is to cut off protections for the one director currently affected by the case: President Donald Trump's appointee, Kathy Kraininger. Al-

though these stones initially were thrown at me, in the hopes of ousting me or at least intimidating the CFPB into doing less for consumers, they now are landing on a different target. Kraininger had been confirmed for a five-year term lasting to December 2021. But after today's ruling, she can be dismissed at any time—including Jan. 20, 2021, when a new president may take office. If that happens, the tenor of the agency's work is sure to change once again, this time tipping back toward strongly protecting consumers and their families.

In the long run, the practical effects of the case are also likely to be limited: It means simply that each new president will likely appoint a new CFPB director, in much the same way he or she will appoint new Cabinet members. The broader question is whether this ruling will encourage further challenges from conservative academics trying to dismantle the independence of other federal agencies, such as the Federal Reserve or the Federal Communications Commission. Those more far-reaching arguments were vigorously presented in this case, but they wait, for now, to be taken up with only Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch taking the bait.

As with any type of fishing, doctrinal change at the Supreme Court requires immense patience. Perhaps in another decade or two, we will get more answers. We don't have to wait, however, to grasp the good news that the justices delivered Monday for American consumers: The CFPB is here to stay.

Richard Cordray was the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is the author of "Watchdog: How Protecting Consumers Can Save Our Families, Our Economy, and Our Democracy."

Why media's move to capitalize 'Black' is a win

By SHIRLEY CARSWELL

Special to The Washington Post

Every semester at least a few of my journalism students at Howard University objected when I told them the letter "b" should be lowercase in their news articles about black people.

Understanding their pride in their race and resentment of implications that it doesn't rate capital, one would tell them that "I get it, but it's not my call."

I referred them to the Associated Press Stylebook, the journalist's bible for rules on writing, which, until about a week ago, said that black should not be capitalized as a racial identifier. On June 19, AP became the latest media organization to change its policy to capitalize "Black" when the word is used in "a racial, ethnic or cultural context."

"Use of the capitalized Black recognizes that language has evolved," says AP's enhanced entry on race-related coverage, "along with the common understanding that especially in the United States, the term reflects a shared identity and culture rather than a skin color alone." Other large outlets that recently adopted this change include the USA Today Network, NBC News and the Los Angeles Times. (The change is under consideration at The Washington Post.)

News organizations use a stylebook — whether AP or custom guidelines — to maintain consistency on capitalization, spelling and other issues. In most newsrooms, a committee of journalists is charged with keeping the style guide up to date. This requires research of the linguistics and history surrounding proposed changes as well as a careful assessment of public taste and sensibilities.

The shift in sensibilities over time is significant. In the past century, references to people of African descent have gone from "negro" to "colored" to "Afro-American" to "black" and "African American." And those just the more widely accepted terms. A few years ago, I came across an early 1900s newspaper article about my great-great-grandfather, who was found fatally shot on a street in rural Georgia. I was elated to find a historical record of his suspicious death, confirming family folklore, but horrified to find the headline in the weekly Hawkinsville Dispatch and News referred to him as an "old darkey."

Media practices reflected denigrating customs, such as that of white people, even children, calling black adults by their first names to deny them the respect conferred by the titles Mr. or Mrs. (The use of Aunt or Uncle for black elders in the weekly Hawkinsville Dispatch and News referred to him as an "old darkey.")

Media practices reflected denigrating customs, such as that of white people, even children, calling black adults by their first names to deny them the respect conferred by the titles Mr. or Mrs. (The use of Aunt or Uncle for black elders in the weekly Hawkinsville Dispatch and News referred to him as an "old darkey.")

Sensibilities also vary among audiences. Black-focused publications such as Ebony magazine, the Afro-American Newspapers and others have long rendered "Black" with

a capital "B." But there is not uniformity among black Americans about black vs. Black. Some argue that if black is capitalized as a racial identifier, then brown must also be capitalized. The same treatment would extend to white, which, problematically, is a style often used by white supremacists to distance themselves from racism as a change that legitimizes perceived racial differences at a time when the focus should be tearing down race constructs created to elevate those of European descent over those they enslaved. Still others dismiss the debate as a distraction from more important issues such as economic inequality and criminal justice reform.

My students pushed back against the lowercase "b" because they recognize the media's power to shape society's views — not just how we see the world around us but also how we see ourselves. Capitalization denotes importance, a subtle recognition of a larger truth.

In the country's rush to examine its conscience over the treatment of black Americans in the wake of George Floyd's killing, media outlets capitalizing the "b" in "Black" may seem, to some, like a small gesture. Changing one letter doesn't cost them anything, and it isn't going to end police brutality or racial injustice. Still, it feels to me like a win at a time when black folks could really use one. Real progress, of course, comes not just from capitalization but also from fair and respectful coverage of black communities. That involves newsrooms hiring more black journalists and being more responsive to those already on staff.

Shirley Carswell teaches journalism at Howard University and is a former deputy managing editor of The Washington Post.

OPINION

BLM, academic conservatives share this concern

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

Black Lives Matter, and the broader national movement for police reform it has spawned, is a left-progressive phenomenon whose demands ironically validate certain long-standing concerns of academic conservatives.

In large part, the movement's goal is to break the influence that police, through union contracts and protective legislation, have acquired over governmental processes that are supposed to ensure they deliver public goods — law enforcement and safety — on a fair and impartial basis.

Policing, therefore, exemplifies how a governmental function can be "captured" by a special interest group — in this case, the agency's employees themselves.

And it was right-of-center economists — Mancur Olson of the University of Maryland and George Stigler of the University of Chicago, to name two — who elaborated theories of special interest groups and government agency capture in the 1960s and 1970s.

To be sure, Stigler focused on the ways corporations captured economic regulators who were supposed to control them; Olson's main concern was how the internal dynamics of special interest groups affect their political efficacy.

Nevertheless, these economists' insights retain relevance to the bureaucratic politics of modern police departments. Like the businesses Stigler analyzed, police officers have, on average, a far higher stake in the outcome of regulatory processes — civilian reviews, arbitration and disciplinary hearings — than individual citizens, and, therefore, much greater incentive to spend time and resources co-opting them.

Olson showed that the ability of any in-

terest group to get its way in public policy varies according to size, with large, diverse groups counterintuitively less capable than small, narrowly defined groups. In the latter, the tangible benefits of collective action to an average group member are more likely to outweigh the costs in money, time and effort.

That incentive structure is especially strong in groups where a common purpose — either in the positive sense of a noble mission or the negative sense of defense against outsiders — reinforces economic interests.

Police and their unions illustrate Olson's arguments on all counts. Neither he nor Stigler would be surprised by research showing an inverse relationship between accountability for police misconduct and the rise of police collective bargaining in the past 50-plus years. (Thirty-two states now have it.)

Undoubtedly, police have legitimate concerns and interests, and a right to representation in appropriate forums, political and bureaucratic — just as corporations have a right to a fair hearing before regulators. Yet The Wall Street Journal's finding that half of all Minneapolis officers who faced criminal charges in the past 15 years are still on the job suggests they are getting something more than neutral due process.

Defunding police doesn't necessarily address these structural dynamics, though it would be at least a temporary political defeat for police unions and lobbies. More consequential changes would be to eliminate collective bargaining, at least over disciplinary procedures, and to eliminate legislation that limits investigations of police brutality or abuse, such as the "law enforcement bill of rights" on the books in 14 states.

The forest of pro-police contractual and statutory law grew in part because of the



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

A group of protesters is suing Pittsburgh city and police officials, saying officers used unnecessary, excessive force to disperse this crowd protesting against police brutality on June 1, and that officials lied about the protesters' behavior to justify that response.

competition between Democratic and Republican politicians for the favor of law enforcement unions — a high-reward, low-risk exercise for the parties given the public's strong support for police in opinion polls, at least before this year.

In 2011, Republican Gov. Scott Walker, of Wisconsin, and a Republican legislature curbed public-employee collective bargaining, probably the most dramatic real-world application of conservative doctrine

to fight union public service capture. For political reasons, however, Walker hypocritically exempted police unions, though in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis police custody, the now-former governor has reconsidered.

Meanwhile, Democrats receive millions of dollars from public-sector unions, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, whose 1.4 million members include 90,000 unionized police and corrections officers.

This is a sensitive issue for AFSCME and its Democratic allies, because criticism of undue police union power could lead to wider questioning of organized labor's heavy influence over other public services, such as education.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders denied in a recent USA Today op-ed that police-union contracts provide "a shield for misconduct or criminal behavior." He portrayed the non-AFSCME Minneapolis police and its militantly pro-Trump president as exceptions to a more enlightened rule.

Invoking striking African American sanitation workers with whom the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. marched in Memphis, Tenn., Saunders wrote: "Just as it was wrong when racists went out of their way to exclude black people from unions, it is wrong to deny this freedom to police officers today."

Black Lives Matter and its allies have the initiative, but, as Mancur Olson would note, the sheer size and diversity of their movement could mutate from a strength to a weakness. Police have a high degree of solidarity; the movement will have to match it to overcome it.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

Both parties had a chance but failed on police reform

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

After Americans reacted in outrage to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Republicans and Democrats in Congress promised quick action on police reform.

Leaders on both sides offered a long list of ideas: a ban on chokeholds, an end to "no-knock" searches, and more. Then, last week, the Senate deadlocked on the issue almost as quickly as it had vowed to act.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., proposed a GOP bill with relatively mild measures that had been approved by the White House. Democrats pronounced the Republican bill so weak that it was "unsalvageable" and blocked it. Senate Republicans in turn refused to take up a House bill passed by Democrats.

Each side denounced the other, and a once-bipartisan goal suddenly appeared unreachable.

It was only one legislative failure among many; Congress' reputation for gridlock has been richly earned. But this one was a special tragedy. Most of the public, reacting to the gruesome video of Floyd's death, wanted some kind of legislation. Republicans and Democrats who spoke to each other — a minority on Capitol Hill — said they believed compromise was possible.

What went wrong? Both sides behaved badly. Each surrendered to internal political pressures.

That wasn't surprising, especially in an election year, but it was still disappointing. That still could have been an exception to the rule.

I called Sen. Angus King, of Maine, an independent who usually votes with Democrats, to find out why the bipartisan push failed. King had voted with Republicans to allow McConnell's bill to move forward.

He said he thought it was a mistake for Democrats to block the bill.

"I think there was space for a compromise, and now I'm afraid we're not going to get anything," he told me. "My concern was that Democrats refused to go forward. McConnell would say, 'OK, I tried,' and move on — and that's pretty much what happened."

But King also faulted the Republican leader for refusing to let Democrats participate in drafting the bill.

"The only way to get things done in the Senate is with a bipartisan process," he said. "This was a bill on a very complex topic drafted by one party."

Even as McConnell cut the Democrats out, he submitted his bill to the White House to make sure President Donald Trump wouldn't denounce it. That's a normal part of legislating — but in the process, some measures were watered down.

Initially, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., the bill's main author, said he wanted to ban or limit no-knock searches, which have led to fatal police shootings of innocent people. When the proposal emerged, it merely called on the Justice Department to collect data about no-knock warrants.

The result was a bill that had broad support among Senate Republicans but fell far short of what Democrats had promised their supporters.

"There is an overwhelming opposition to the bill in our caucus," Minority Leader

Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said. The desire for party unity on each side meant the ground for compromise kept shrinking.

McConnell said he would allow Democrats to try to amend the bill, but Schumer said that offer fell short of a guarantee.

"There's a fundamental lack of trust between the two sides," King told me.

In the House, where Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Democratic majority can pass bills without Republican help, a mirror-image process occurred: A Democratic bill passed with almost no GOP participation. It included bans on chokeholds and no-knock warrants, limits on police officers' immunity from lawsuits and a publicly available database of police officers with disciplinary records.

On all those issues, King argued, compromises might have been possible.

A bipartisan majority could agree to ban chokeholds except when a police officer's life is in danger, strict restrictions on no-knock searches, and even perhaps stripping police officers' immunity to lawsuits if they violate their departments' policies (although police unions have long resisted any change).

There was plenty of blame to go around. Norman J. Ornstein, a congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute, pointed at the Republican leader.

"The way McConnell set up the process almost guaranteed this outcome," he said. "If he had wanted bipartisan legislation, he could have gotten it either by turning the issue over to the Judiciary Committee (which includes members of both parties) or by forming a bipartisan group. He did neither."

Frances E. Lee, a political scientist at Princeton University, said the Democrats were responsible.

"It's clear that Democrats believe that they would be better off preserving the issue for the election," she wrote in an email. "A negotiated outcome would force Democrats to accept far less than what they want ... (and) muddle the clarity of the party's election message."

There are two morals to this story — one all too familiar, the other less so.

The first is that in a polarized and closely divided Congress, bipartisan deals are almost impossible, especially in an election year.

But the countervailing message is also striking: On some issues, if the public demands action, both parties will try to respond.

That was true when Congress passed a series of bills to counter the economic shock of the coronavirus lockdowns. And it was true in Congress' initial reaction to the death of George Floyd.

Like King, I think it would have been better if Senate Democrats had allowed McConnell's bill to move ahead, and tested his promise that they could amend it on the floor.

They chose otherwise. Now McConnell can either walk away from the issue — or he can try again, with a bigger dose of bipartisanship. But only one force can compel the Senate leader and his colleagues to move: loud, sustained pressure from the public.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

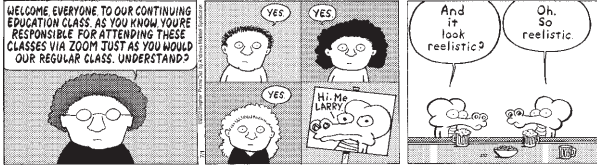
Frazz



Dilbert



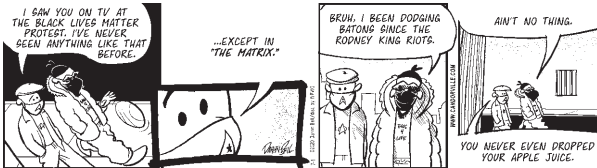
Pearls Before Swine



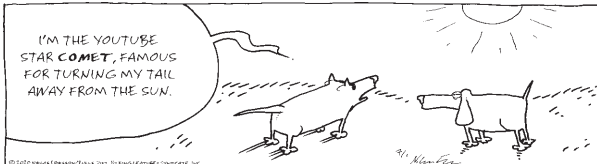
Non Sequitur



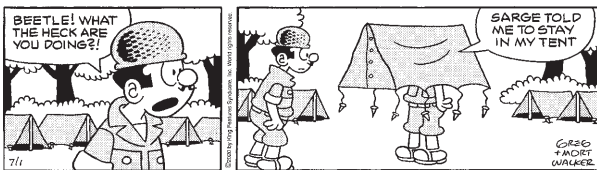
Candorville



Carpe Diem



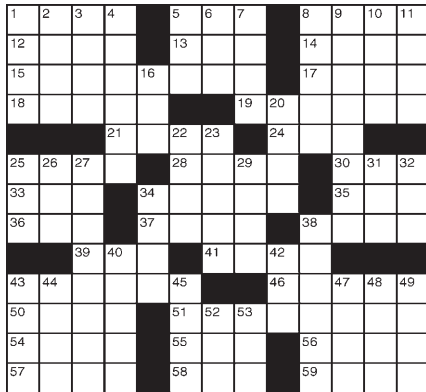
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- Even
- Mahal preceider
- Cain's brother
- Farm unit
- World Cup cheer
- Money
- Research sites
- Slightly
- Makeup mogul
- Tennessee team
- Spanish ayes
- Retrieve
- Bulb measure
- Data
- First lady?
- Mature
- Prank
- Command
- Fido
- "— Capital"
- Flightless birds
- Elevator name
- As well
- Russian ruler
- Disqualify
- Appointments
- Eventful periods
- Driving exam
- Puglist's weapon
- Tax-collecting org.
- Lighten

DOWN

- Beholds
- "Blue Bloods" extra
- Let fall
- Suggestions
- Bankroll
- Turkish title
- Legal precedent
- Own (up)
- Half of XIV
- UFO pilots
- Corp. leaders
- Gave a speech
- Expels
- Do sums
- Umps
- Pennsylvania
- port
- Actor Bana
- Eye drop
- Old U.S. gas brand
- Dance move
- Spanish gold
- Cleo's slayer

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-1

CRYPTOQUIP

FXHW L BWLVH NB FZLJJNWO
SNOXSPE LZTYWC NSB JZHE,
FTYPC ETY GLPP NS L

GTWBSZNGSNTW FTZVHZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ARAB LEADER LOVES COCOA-FLAVORED DAIRY DRINKS, I THINK HE MAY BE A CHOCOLATE MILK SHEIK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

STARS AND STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH
FREE TRIAL

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!



stripes.com/subscribe

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Signed C Juan Montesa, RHP Casey Cobb and RHP Henry Nunez to minor league contracts.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with RHP's Garrett Acton and Stevie Emanuel, C's Tyler Soderstrom and Cooper Uhl and OF D.J. Lee on minor league contracts.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Signed RHP Connor Phillips to a minor league contract.

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Placed RHP Silvano Bracho on the 45-day DL. Agreed to terms with RHP Bryce Jarvis on a minor league contract.
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Nick Vincent on a minor league contract. Agreed to terms with RHP Max Meyer on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Hunter Strickland, INF Gordon Beckham, OF Melky Cabrera, RHP Erasmo Ramirez and OF Ryan Cordell on minor league contracts. Agreed to terms with RHP J.T. Ginn on a minor league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Released RHP Anthony Swarzak, then re-signed him to a minor league contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Signed RHP Jack Hartman to a minor league contract. Placed RHP Chris Archer on the 45-day DL retroactive to June 28.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Placed RHP Andres Munoz on the 45-day DL.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled Enderson Franco from Club Estudiantes de la Plata has been extended through 2020 season.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Returned WR Jeremiah Braswell.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed DT DaVon Hamilton.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed OL Cameron Clark.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed DT Javon Kinlaw and WR Brandon Aiyuk.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
ATLANTA UNITED FC — Returned F/M Jon Gallagher to the club after being on loan to Aberdeen FC. Announced loan of Mikel Castro from Club Estudiantes de la Plata has been extended through 2020 season.

Soccer

NWSL Challenge Cup

At Herriam Utah
Atlanta United FC — Returned F/M Jon Gallagher to the club after being on loan to Aberdeen FC. Announced loan of Mikel Castro from Club Estudiantes de la Plata has been extended through 2020 season.

North Carolina Courage 2, Portland Thorns 1
Chicago Red Stars 1, Washington Spirit 2
Tuesday, June 30
Houston Dash vs. Utah Royals
OL Reign vs. Sky Blue
Wednesday, July 1
Portland Thorns vs. Chicago Red Stars
Washington Spirit vs. North Carolina Courage

Saturday, July 4
Utah Royals vs. Sky Blue
Houston Dash vs. OL Reign
Sunday, July 5
North Carolina Courage vs. Chicago Red Stars
Portland Thorns vs. Washington Spirit

Wednesday, July 8
Utah Royals vs. OL Reign
Sky Blue vs. Houston Dash
Sunday, July 12
Washington Spirit vs. Houston Dash
Chicago Red Stars vs. Utah Royals

Monday, July 13
OL Reign vs. Portland Thorns
Sky Blue vs. North Carolina Courage
Quarterfinals
Friday, July 17
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD

Saturday, July 18
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD

Semifinals
Wednesday, July 22
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD

Championship
Sunday, July 26
TBD vs. TBD

Steering around controversy, crisis

NASCAR has shown the ability to keep racing through crisis

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The one thing NASCAR has always gotten right is its ability to keep the wheels turning. In crisis or coronavirus, the show finds its way to a race track and keeps plugging along.
That has been true in doubt, at least not since 2001, when Dale Earnhardt died in a crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500. The next seven days were a blur of grief and outrage. Yet Earnhardt's funeral was Thursday and everybody made it to Rockingham in time for Friday practice.

The determination to race has been NASCAR's greatest strength in the most tumultuous of times and that certainly includes the past several weeks.

A garage door pulldown rope fashioned as a noose was found in the garage stall of Bubba Wallace at Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. The FBI determined it had been there since last October and Wallace — who two weeks earlier helped prod NASCAR to ban the Confederate flag at its races — was not the target of a hate crime. Still, the attention was unusually glaring — for Wallace, for NASCAR and for fans who feel they are defending Southern heritage, flag and all.

So NASCAR raced. By Monday, a full seven days after NASCAR stood in support behind Wallace at Talladega, three more Cup Series races had been completed. The conversation moved away from the noose, the ban and racial equality — for better and for worse.

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kyle Busch, left, and Bubba Wallace walk down pit row before a NASCAR Cup Series race at Pocono Raceway on Sunday in Long Pond, Pa.

‘We’re race car drivers. To ask us our stance on public issues and things like that, we’re not always that good at it. We don’t always say the right thing.’

Denny Hamlin
NASCAR driver

There was chatter about NASCAR's unprecedented tripleheader at Pocono over the weekend, which also saw the Cup Series run consecutive points-paying races. Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin went 1-2 in the first race, then flipped the order Sunday in what could be a preview of a stirring championship battle.

Harvick, the points leader, and Hamlin, the Daytona 500 win-

ner, have seven combined victories through 15 races and both have played a significant role in NASCAR's survival during the pandemic. Hamlin was a key player in the iRacing craze during NASCAR's 10-week shutdown and has tirelessly remained front and center for the sport. Harvick resumed a national radio show while representing himself as a series champion.

Both can feel the toll of this topsy-turvy season, in which NASCAR was one of the first major sporting leagues to return to competition. Routines have been upended and replaced by a frenzied season of one-day shows, largely without fans — no practices, no qualifying and nine rain-interrupted races, all in the shadow of the noose incident at Talladega.

"It's been a unique time," Hamlin said. "Everything is just different. The way that we work our weeks, weekends, everything is different now. You're trying to adapt to that. Then we have the whole thing going on with George Floyd. That sparked conversations and protests. We had the incident, we thought the incident, with Bubba."

"I just want to get to racing and talking about racing," he said. "It's difficult to ask us to be able to compartmentalize all this stuff. We're race car drivers. To ask us

our stance on public issues and things like that, we're not always that good at it. We don't always say the right thing."

Less than three months ago, star driver Kyle Larson used the N-word during an iRacing event. He was suspended by NASCAR, lost his job with his team and is currently racking up wins on sprint car tracks. That seems long ago now, but it was another controversy in a string of them.

Will the conversation about race fade? No one is sure, just like no one is sure whether a sponsor will step up for Wallace's underfunded Richard Petty Motorsports team.

Either way, NASCAR will just keep moving, on to Indianapolis Motor Speedway this weekend for another first: The hectic rescheduling of racing means NASCAR and IndyCar will share the facility for the first doubleheader featuring the nation's two biggest auto racing series.

Harvick, who in 2001 went from a Busch Series driver to Earnhardt's replacement overnight, has never not been part of NASCAR's nonstop grind. Perhaps at times it's annoyed him, worn him down, even made him angry. Right now, being able to race is a gift not to be underappreciated.

"I think our races have had a positive impact on the motorsports community every week. This was our 11th race since we've come back," Harvick said. "Our industry has just done a great job, really been the leader in trying to help other sports figure out how they're going to get back on track."

Going racing is what NASCAR does best.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

A vehicle waves Confederate battle flags and a United States flag as it drives on June 21 prior to a NASCAR Cup Series race in Talladega, Ala. The Confederate battle flag is losing its place of official prominence in the South 155 years after the end of the Civil War. NASCAR has banned it from its races.

NBA/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Washington Wizards guard John Wall, left, talks to a teammate during a game on Dec. 23. The Wizards have ruled out the possibility of him playing when the NBA season resumes.

Wizards rule out veteran Wall's return from injury this season

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

John Wall will not join the Washington Wizards for the resumption of the NBA season this summer, ending the chances of the five-time All-Star guard playing his first game since 2018.

General manager Tommy Sheppard effectively ruled out Wall returning this season when he said Monday the 29-year-old wouldn't be part of the Wizards' traveling party to Central Florida. Among the factors in the decision was a cap of 35 people per team in the quarantined bubble at Walt Disney World. The COVID-19 pandemic also hindered Wall's progress in his rehab from multiple surgeries.

"He definitely lost all the basketball gains that he had made," Sheppard said on a video call with reporters. "He's got to focus on what he's got to do, but having somebody go into that bubble that's not going to play, that's just more people going into the bubble."

Wall hasn't played an NBA game since December 2018. Surgery for bone spurs in his left heel ended

that season; while he was working his way back from that, he tore his left Achilles tendon and needed another operation in 2019.

He declared himself "110 percent" healthy in late May, saying, "I'm itching to get back out there."

The Wizards put the brakes on that, meaning Wall will try to return for the 2020-21 season as originally planned.

"He's been fantastic in keeping his weight and being active during all this period, and this will be a continuation of the work and the plan that we've done for him," Wizards' chief of athletic care and performance Daniel Medina said. "We're going to make sure that his body and his mind are at the highest level for a safe and successful return when he comes back."

When the season was suspended in mid-March, the Wizards were 24-40 and ninth in the Eastern Conference, 5½ games behind the eighth-place Orlando Magic. As one of 22 teams returning, Washington will have an outside chance without Wall — and forward Davis Bertans, who opted out — to earn a playoff spot.

Nets' Dinwiddie, Jordan have virus

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spencer Dinwiddie and DeAndre Jordan said Monday they have tested positive for the coronavirus, potentially leaving the Brooklyn Nets without two starters when the NBA season resumes.

Jordan said he won't be in Florida with the Nets when they return from the suspension of the 2019-20 season, while Dinwiddie told The Athletic that he was experiencing symptoms and it was unclear if he would be at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex.

At least six players on the Nets

have tested positive for the virus. The other four were back in March, when Kevin Durant said he was one of them.

Both players said they tested positive after returning to New York to rejoin the team. Some players left the city, which was a hot spot at the time, after the NBA halted play.

Dinwiddie said he tested negative for the virus multiple times after returning to Brooklyn and took part in a couple of practices. But he has since tested positive and said he has a fever and chest soreness.

His absence would be a significant blow to the Nets, given he has played so well this season

with Kyrie Irving out of the lineup because of injuries. Dinwiddie is averaging 20.6 points.

Jordan announced his status on Twitter, saying he learned of his diagnosis Sunday night and it was confirmed again Monday.

The center signed with the Nets last summer along with Durant and Irving. The 2016 U.S. Olympic gold medalist spent most of the season as a reserve but had moved into the starting lineup for both games after Jacques Vaughn replaced Kenny Atkinson as coach in March.

The Nets have a half-game lead over Orlando for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Ex-RB says he was mistreated by Iowa coaches

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Former Iowa running back Akrum Wadley ripped the Hawkeyes on Monday, saying he was so mistreated by some coaches he now regrets playing there.

Wadley's statement, posted on Facebook, mentioned coach Kirk Ferentz, his son, offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz, director of player development Broderick Binns and Chris Doyle, the former strength and conditioning coach for the Hawkeyes.

Wadley said Brian Ferentz on several occasions jokingly asked him if he was on his way to commit a robbery when Wadley was leaving with a team-issued wool hat that covered his face in the cold. He said his weight was also a constant issue and was used to belittle him.

"I was threatened by Kirk Ferentz that my meal card would be taken away and I will not eat nor be able to sit with my teammates during eating sessions," Wadley wrote. "He did follow through on his threat."

Wadley, a New Jersey native, piled up a combined 3,633 yards rushing and receiving and scored 35 touchdowns for Iowa from 2014-17.

Wadley said he regrets playing there because he was mistreated by the team's coaches.

2014-17.

"I felt like playing for Iowa Football was a living nightmare," he wrote. "I never drank alcohol prior to going to college but based on my experience there it became the only thing I could rely on, it seems and was what I did to cope."

More than three dozen former Iowa players, most of them Black, have accused Iowa of racial bias within the program and many singled out Doyle, who left the university and will be paid \$1.1 million. Iowa hired a law firm to conduct a review of the football program. Kirk Ferentz has held news conferences and promised to listen to his former players; Binns, a former player, has been named interim director of diversity and inclusion for the athletic department.

A statement issued Monday to the Des Moines Register said Kirk Ferentz would not comment publicly.

"Coach Ferentz believes that meaningful change takes time and a thorough independent examination is already underway," the statement said. "He remains committed to creating a more inclusive culture for all of his players now and in the years to come."

Ferentz is Iowa's career wins leader and enters his 22nd season as the longest-tenured coach of a Bowl Subdivision program. Ferentz earned \$5.5 million last year after bonuses, and his contract runs through the 2025 season.



CHARLIE NIEBERGALL/AP

Running back Akrum Wadley, who had a combined 3,633 yards rushing and receiving and scored 35 touchdowns for Iowa from 2014-17, said he regrets playing there because he was mistreated by the team's coaches.

GOLF/BASEBALL



GERRY BROOME/AP

Nick Watney signals after a tee shot during the first round of the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C., on June 18. Watney tested positive for coronavirus and has not played since.

Watney bored in isolation

First PGA Tour player to test positive nervous about how he got virus

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Monday marked the 10th day of self-isolation for Nick Watney, the minimum required for PGA Tour players who test positive for the new coronavirus.

He said he is feeling good except for some minor fatigue, perhaps brought on by a major case of boredom, and except for the distinction of becoming the first of what now is five players and two caddies who have tested positive since the PGA Tour returned amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I will say, it's not the greatest feeling being the first to get it," Watney said in his first interview since he was notified June 19 at the RBC Heritage of his positive test.

"Some things are so vague around this thing," he said. "The symptoms ... some people get this, some get that. I haven't had a fever or cough the whole time, no shortness of breath. Maybe that's the reason it's so scary. I still don't know how or where I got it."

He lost his sense of smell, a sensation he described as "gnarly," but said that is coming back. And perhaps the strangest sensation is being at a golf resort without playing golf.

He remains in Hilton Head Island, S.C., as the PGA Tour has moved on to Connecticut, and now Detroit this week, and then two weeks in Ohio. The show goes on.

"Very, very boring," he said. "Being on the road and not playing golf is a weird feeling."

Three more players tested positive during the Travelers Championship — Cameron Champ before the tournament started, Denny McCarthy after his first round and Dylan Frittelli after he missed the cut. Two caddies tested positive, which caused a chain reaction of withdrawals. Harris English tested positive Monday

at the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit.

Watney spent part of Monday arranging for a rental car for the 17-hour drive to Austin, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Amber, and their four children, ranging in age from 6 years to 6 months.

"I don't want to fly at this point," he said. "I just think all this could be a waste of time if I left early and got someone else sick. I'd feel terrible."

He said his wife was nervous when he called her the day of the test. She managed to get herself and the children tested the following day, and the tests came back negative. A week later, none has any symptoms.

Watney laughed at the notion he might be responsible for PGA Tour players all getting a WHOOP strap, which can provide early indications of the virus. That was part of the tour trying to tighten its protocols as it continues its schedule.

The strap is what alerted Watney.

He bought one a year ago to study his sleep pattern and other health metrics, trying to do everything possible to help the 39-year-old add to his five PGA Tour victories and one appearance in the Presidents Cup.

He typically takes 14 breaths a minute. When he woke up Friday at Harbour Town, it was up to 18, which concerned him. So he asked for a test and was at the golf course when he received the call saying he had tested positive.

"You're a member of the WHOOP service, they're always talking about performance," he said. "They also sent out data from users who have gotten the virus. A common thing was the respiratory rate. I read an article they had published, and it was alarming. I didn't wake up short of breath. It wasn't difficult to breathe. But

this thing has tracked my respiratory rate. And based on that, I thought I should be tested."

Watney is known to be polite to a fault, and his biggest worry was spreading the virus. He texted Rory McIlroy, whom he saw on the practice green ("at a distance," McIlroy said before getting his result. Sergio Garcia, who flew with him from Austin to Hilton Head, said Watney texted him constantly. "He must have said, 'Sorry,' to me 25 times," Garcia said.

The tour identified 11 people with whom Watney had contact. They were tested twice, with all results negative.

"I was very, very nervous about giving it to other people," Watney said. "I don't know how I got it. I don't feel as though I was reckless. That part is scary. It's like this invisible, silent thing."

Watney said he went to the grocery store one time during the week of the tournament. The island was busy because of the start of summer vacation, with restaurants full and parking lots packed.

Since the positive test, Watney has been in his room. He said Bill Haas' wife, Julie, went to the store and brought him 10 bags of groceries. He has spent time on the phone calling those who have checked up on him — players, caddies, RBC Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmont.

Watney is No. 123 in the FedEx Cup standings, and the positive test cost him at least a month of competition. No worries there — with the shortened season, his status will be unchanged for next season.

He said he would feel safe after three straight days of no symptoms. He plans to start the two-day road trip on Wednesday. "I'll make up when I find a motel," he said.

With restrictions, fans to return for Korean baseball

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's professional baseball league says it will require fans to wear masks and to sit at least a seat apart as it prepares to bring back spectators in the coming weeks amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Korea Baseball Organization on Tuesday said fans will also not be allowed to eat food in the stands. Teams will be initially allowed to sell only 30% of the seats for each game, a figure that could be expanded to as much as 50% depending on the progress in the country's anti-virus efforts, according to the league's plans.

Fans will also be screened for fevers and discouraged from excessive shouting, singing and cheering during the game to prevent contact or dispersion of droplets, the KBO said. And perhaps as a means of discouraging any boisterous behavior, beer will also be banned and fans will only be allowed to drink water or non-alcoholic beverages.

They will be able to buy tickets only with credit cards so that health authorities could easily locate them when needed. South Korea has been actively tracing the contacts of virus carriers using credit-card information, cellphone location data and surveillance camera footage.

The KBO is also considering requiring fans to register themselves with smartphone QR codes, a technology that has been enforced at businesses such as nightclubs, karaoke rooms and

gyms to track customers when transmissions occur.

If a fan is confirmed as a COVID-19 patient during a game, the KBO will immediately suspend play and shut down the stadium for sanitation as health authorities trace the person's contacts. Players or team staff will be tested if needed.

If players or other team members get infected, the league will close the facilities they visited for a minimum two days but continue with the games if possible. However, if the virus carriers had contacted more than six people, or there are other risks of further transmissions, the KBO could hold an emergency board meeting to determine whether to shut down the league for a minimum 21 days.

The KBO became one of the world's first major sports competitions to return to action in May, but without fans in the stands.

Health authorities and sports ministry officials have been discussing preventative measures as they try to schedule a return of fans in baseball, soccer, golf and other sports. The plans could be announced as early as this week.

South Korea's moves to re-admit fans in sporting events come despite a surge of the coronavirus in the Seoul metropolitan area, which is home to about half of the country's 51 million population. Despite the steady rise in infections, government officials have been reluctant to enforce stronger social distancing guidelines out of concerns of further hurting a fragile economy.

Mets optimistic that Cespedes can return

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When baseball comes back this month, Yoenis Cespedes might finally be ready to return, too.

Sidelined for nearly two years by injuries and then the coronavirus pandemic, the New York Mets slugger could be healthy enough at last to play on opening day in late July — especially with the designated hitter available in the National League this season.

"We'll have to evaluate how the next few days go, but we're optimistic," Mets general manager Brodie Van Wagonen said Monday. "His bat can be a real impact and be a little bit of a separator for us as we compare ourselves to the rest of the teams in the league."

The 34-year-old Cespedes hasn't played since July 20, 2018, his only major league game after May 13 that year. The two-time All-Star had surgery on

both heels and then broke his right ankle in a nasty spill on his Florida ranch in a reported run-in with a wild boar.

Van Wagonen mentioned that Cespedes is a five-tool athlete and won't necessarily be limited to DH duty if healthy. The left fielder is entering the final season of a four-year contract.

"Cespedes has been working hard. We are looking forward to him getting into camp and believe that he should be closer to being game-ready than when we saw him last in March," Van Wagonen said.

Right fielder Michael Conforto should have no restrictions when spring training starts up again this week. Conforto strained a muscle on his right side in March before camps were closed due to the virus outbreak.

New York will begin workouts Friday at Citi Field, and Van Wagonen said the team anticipates all its players will report.

MLB



MATT YORK/AP

Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Mike Leake has opted out of the upcoming season due to concerns about the coronavirus. Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen did not elaborate on Leake's decision during a Zoom call, but the pitcher's agent issued a statement saying he made a personal decision not to play during the pandemic.

Pass: Twins move to protect coaches

FROM BACK PAGE

Desmond cited his family as one reason why he decided to stay home for the upcoming 60-game season. But the biracial slugger also mentioned a myriad of issues within baseball, including racism, sexism, homophobia and socioeconomic concerns.

"With a pregnant wife and four young children who have lots of questions about what's going on in the world, home is where I need to be right now," the 34-year-old Desmond wrote in an Instagram post. "Home for my wife, Chelsey. Home to help. Home to guide. Home to answer my older three boys' questions about Coronavirus and Civil Rights and life. Home to be their Dad."

Desmond, who hit .255 with 20 homers in 140 games last season, had been due \$5,555,556 for the prorated share of his \$15 million salary, part of a \$70 million, five-year contract. He is owed \$8 million next year, and his deal includes a \$15 million team option for 2022 with a \$2 million buyout.

The Twins confirmed Monday that 68-year-old bullpen coach Bob McClure and 66-year-old major league coach Bill Evers won't be in the clubhouse at the start of this season because of health concerns. Both will stay with the organization to help in altered roles.

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli, who was sitting in a Target Field dugout during a Zoom call, said he's known both coaches for a long time and that the decisions were difficult. He added that both coaches were disappointed.

"I think we all know that we're making the right decision, but that doesn't mean it feels good," Baldelli said. "It's very, very challenging to even think about these sorts of things and have these conversations."

DID YOU KNOW?

By sitting out the season, Rockies slugger Ian Desmond stands to lose \$5,555,556 for the prorated share of his \$15 million salary, part of a \$70 million, five-year contract. He is owed \$8 million next year, and his deal includes a \$15 million team option for 2022 with a \$2 million buyout.

SOURCE: Associated Press

But they're exactly the conversations that are being had at both the organizational and personal level across the MLB landscape. The defending World Series champion Nationals will begin their title defense without Zimmerman and pitcher Joe Ross, who also declined to play because of health concerns.

"We are 100% supportive of their decision to not play this year," Nationals GM Mike Rizzo said in a statement. "We will miss their presence in the clubhouse and their contributions on the field."

Ross, 27, has five seasons of MLB experience. He appeared in 27 games last season.

Zimmerman was due \$740,741 and Ross \$555,556 as prorated portions of their salaries, originally \$2 million for the first baseman and \$1.5 million for the pitcher. If they are deemed high risk by team physicians, they would still get paid and receive severance.

Arizona's pitching depth took a hit when Mike Leake said he had decided not to play this year. Leake was expected to be a part of the team's starting rotation after starting 10 games last season and finishing with a 3-3 record and 4.35 ERA following a midseason trade with Seattle.

Diamondbacks general man-

ager Mike Hazen didn't elaborate on Leake's decision, but the pitcher's agent issued a statement saying he made a personal decision not to play during the pandemic. The GM also didn't say whether Leake falls under the high-risk category. If Leake does, he would be due \$5,555,556 as the prorated share of his \$15 million salary.

The fragility of baseball's current health situation has been apparent for the past few weeks. The Philadelphia Phillies had a coronavirus outbreak at their spring training facility in Clearwater, Fla., earlier this month. Seven players and five staff members tested positive in the organization.

Phillies GM Matt Klentak said the team was "fortunate that none of the cases, player or staff, have been especially serious." He said no one has been hospitalized.

But the outbreak is another example of how difficult it is to limit exposure.

"What is eye opening to a lot of us is how quickly it spread even in an environment where we were on the extreme end of caution," Klentak said. "The facility in Clearwater was pretty airtight in terms of staggering times of players reporting to work out, cleaning the facilities in between. Truthfully, it was frustrating to some players how strict it was and yet the outbreak still happened."

San Francisco minor league center fielder Hunter Bishop has tested positive for the coronavirus and has mild symptoms, according to president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi. The 10th overall pick last year would have been among 51 players reporting to training this week.

AP sports writers Greg Beacham, John Marshall, Rob Maaddi, Tom Withers, Janie McCauley, Mike Fitzpatrick, Ronald Blum and Stephen Whyno contributed to this report.

Blue Jays head to Florida, still face questions

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — The Blue Jays are moving players to their spring training facility in Florida while they await word from the Canadian government about playing in Toronto amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said Monday that city, provincial and federal authorities "kind of gave their approval," but the Blue Jays are looking for a letter of support from the federal government.

He also said Dr. David Williams, Ontario's chief medical officer, requires a few tweaks to MLB's submitted plan to play, which health authorities have been reviewing.

Ford said he was in talks with Blue Jays President Mark Shapiro all weekend.

The team later issued a statement that said it is starting to move players and personnel to its training facility in Dunedin, Fla., to begin testing players.

"The team will either board a charter flight to Toronto to begin training under a modified quarantine, isolated from the general public, or remain in Florida to conduct training," the team said in a statement.

"The Blue Jays are hopeful to stage training camp and play regular-season home games in Toronto and will continue to work through this possibility."

A couple of more teams had thought about resuming training at their facilities in Florida, but that possibility was dashed

by a rise in coronavirus cases in the state. Most clubs intend to work out in their regular-season ballparks.

Anna Maddison, a spokesman for the Public Health Agency of Canada, said the federal government continues to be in discussion with the Blue Jays. Maddison said Toronto Public Health and Ontario Ministry of Health are also actively engaged with the Blue Jays.

"All parties are committed to mitigating the risks of the spread of COVID-19 in Canada," she said in an email.

MLB requires an exemption from the restrictions that apply to the rest of Canada during the pandemic. Anyone entering Canada for nonessential reasons must self-isolate for 14 days, and the U.S.-Canada border remains closed to nonessential travel until at least July 21.

Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto and the medical director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Sinai-University Health Network, said it would be a bad look for the governments to turn a blind eye to public health for the purpose of resuming professional sports just as Ontario is getting its COVID-19 numbers under control.

"This sets a pretty concerning precedent by allowing people from high-prevalence areas and waiving quarantine for them," Morris said. "We've been pretty cautious about opening up our border. I guess now it's essential purposes plus baseball."



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

The Toronto Blue Jays' Travis Shaw, right, is greeted at home after his two-run home run during a spring training game on March 8 at their spring training facility in Dunedin, Fla. The Blue Jays will train in Florida, but it's uncertain if they'll play home games in Toronto.

SPORTS



More positive tests
Nets' Dinwiddie, Jordan
have coronavirus » **NBA, Page 21**

MLB

Biracial slugger Ian Desmond mentioned a myriad of issues within baseball, including racism, sexism, homophobia and socioeconomic concerns as his reasons for skipping the upcoming 60-game season.

Ross D. FRANKLIN / AP

Taking a pass



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

At 35 years old, Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman, left, is still deciding on his future beyond this season.

Group of players opts to sit out season due to health concerns

BY DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

A PHOENIX small group of players, including Nationals slugger Ryan Zimmerman and Rockies outfielder Ian Desmond, have announced they plan to sit out this season. The Minnesota Twins have shuffled their on-field staff to protect the health of some of their older coaches.

As the sport lurches toward a late July start during the coronavirus crisis, roster flexibility and organizational depth will be key.

Zimmerman, who told The Associated Press last week he still

‘Given the unusual nature of the season, this is the best decision for me and my family.’

Ryan Zimmerman

Nationals first baseman on why he's sitting out the upcoming season

was deciding whether to play this year, ultimately said having three young children, including a newborn, and a mother at higher risk because of multiple sclerosis factored into his decision.

“Given the unusual nature of the season, this is the best decision for me and my family,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman said.

The 35-year-old Zimmerman, who has been with the Nationals since 2005, said he still is deciding on his future beyond this season. The two-time All-Star and 2009 Gold Glove winner has 270 career homers.

SEE PASS ON PAGE 23

Watney doesn't know how he got COVID-19 » Golf, Page 22

